

The Voice of Blythewood

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BLYTHEWOOD, SC
PERMIT NO. 2

BlythewoodOnline.com

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Your Hometown Newspaper



This view of Longtown Road West over the Lake Columbia dam shows two large erosions on the dam.

Erosion could lead to closing of Longtown Road East that runs over Lake Columbia dam

Barbara Ball
Publisher

COLUMBIA - A letter sent to Long-Creek Plantation residents earlier this month by Paul D. de Holczer, Assistant Chief Counsel for South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), warned residents that erosion appears along the shoulder of Longtown Road East that runs across the top of the Lake Columbia dam.

"That erosion is creeping toward the edge of the pavement and, unless checked, will eventually undermine the pavement," de Holczer stated.

The landowner, de Holczer wrote, has several options:

1. Repair the dam to standards of the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), and SCDOT will maintain the road over the dam.
2. Abandon the dam in accordance with acceptable engineering practices and SCDES regulations and relinquish the



Orange cones mark areas along the road where erosion of the dam is inching toward the roadway.

photos/Barbara Ball

right to SCDOT to reconstruct the road by providing an avenue to allow water to pass underneath the roadway. This option would drain Lake Columbia.

3. Not repair the dam. SCDOT would make a determination in that case as to the necessity of the road. If SCDOT determines the road is not a necessary part of the state highway system, SCDOT could remove the road from the State Highway system. If no party chooses to maintain the road, an interested party could petition the court to have

the road permanently closed to the public use.

"To be clear," de Holczer wrote, "SCDOT is willing to operate and maintain Longtown Road East over Longtown Dam if the dam is maintained to the appropriate engineering standard. If the erosion continues, SCDOT will be compelled to reduce the speed limit and impose weight restrictions on the road. If the erosion creates a dangerous situation for the public, SCDOT must close the section of Longtown Road East over the dam."

See **Erosion** page 4A



photo/Barbara Ball

High winds damage amphitheater

Barbara Ball
Publisher

BLYTHEWOOD - A video from the town's surveillance cameras in Doko Meadows Park shows the moment when the tin roofing on the Palmetto Federal Citizens Amphitheater was ripped off and sent flying across the park on Thursday, March 12.

Crosby Roofing was on site later that afternoon to cover the roof until repairs can be made.

Town officials said on Wednesday that they do not know yet the full extent of the damage or the cost to repair it.

"Our insurance adjuster is scheduled to inspect the property later today (Wednesday)," Town Manager Ed Driggers said. "Once I receive

that report I will be in a better position to know our path forward."

Mayor Sloan Griffin said there are no reservations for use of the amphitheater currently, and that the next step after getting the insurance estimate is for the Town to get bids.

"After that, it won't be long until the amphitheater is repaired and roofed," Griffin said.

Substitute arrested for gun on BHS campus

Staff Reports
The Voice

BLYTHEWOOD - A substitute teacher entering Blythewood High School at about 9 a.m. on March 9, was arrested after security equipment detected a gun in the teacher's backpack.

Justin Fox, 37, said he forgot his firearm was on his person. He told deputies that he had visited the gun range over the weekend, according to the Richland County sheriff's incident report.

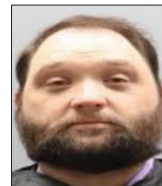
Once school officials were alerted about the firearm, School Resources Officers (SROs) re-

sponded to secure the firearm and detain Fox. It was confirmed that Fox is the legal owner of the gun.

The black Smith & Wesson 9 mm handgun was removed and secured. It was safety cleared through NCIC, according to the incident report.

The report stated that the firearm had a full magazine inside, but there was no round in the chamber.

Fox was charged with Carrying Weapon on School Property and transported to Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center.



Fox

Blythewood Garden Club's annual event set for March 19

Contributed
The Voice

BLYTHEWOOD - The Blythewood Garden Club's annual community garden event will be held on Thursday, March 19.

Clemson-trained Master Gardener, Lynn Derrick, will speak on growing wider varieties of fruits and vegetables in the Midlands, and other things he has learned from his years of gardening.

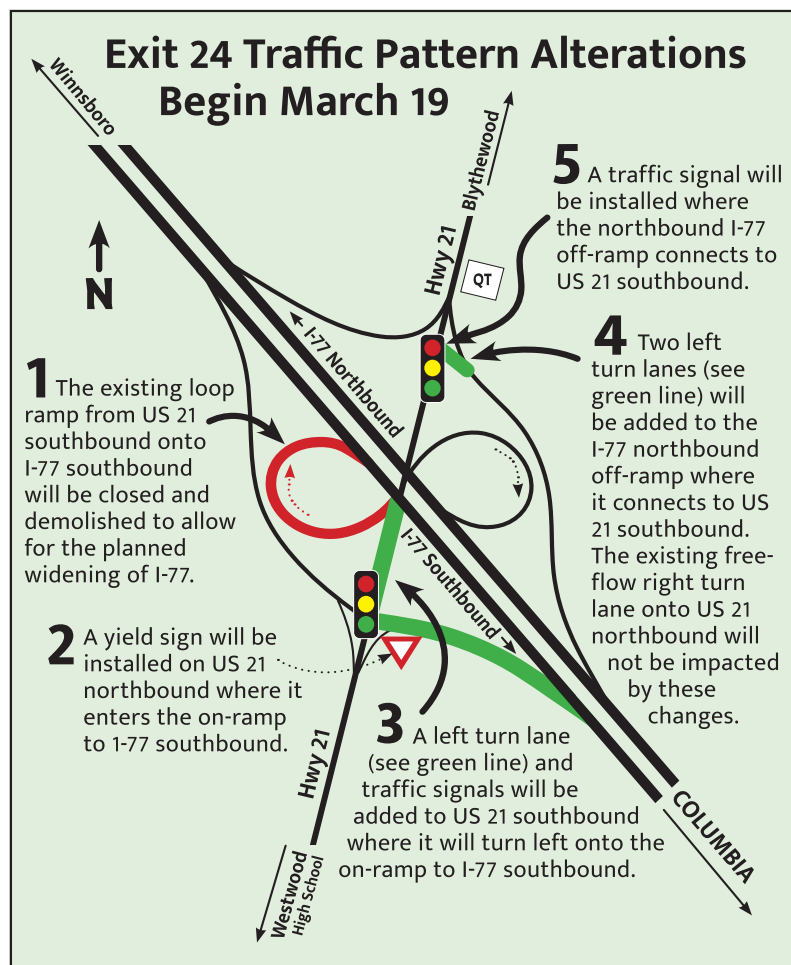
The event will be held this year at 7 p.m. in the Fairfield Electric

Cooperative Community Room, 701 Blythewood Rd. The event is free and has been offered to the public for more than 14 years.

The Blythewood Garden Club was founded in 1953 and has been a force for good gardening, beautification and conservation. It provides and maintains the planters in front of the post office and the Carolina Fence Garden at the Historical Museum.



Derrick



Exit 24 traffic pattern changes to begin March 19

Staff Reports
The Voice

BLYTHEWOOD - Several traffic pattern changes are coming to Exit 24 in Blythewood, and construction work is expected to begin March 19, according to South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) officials.

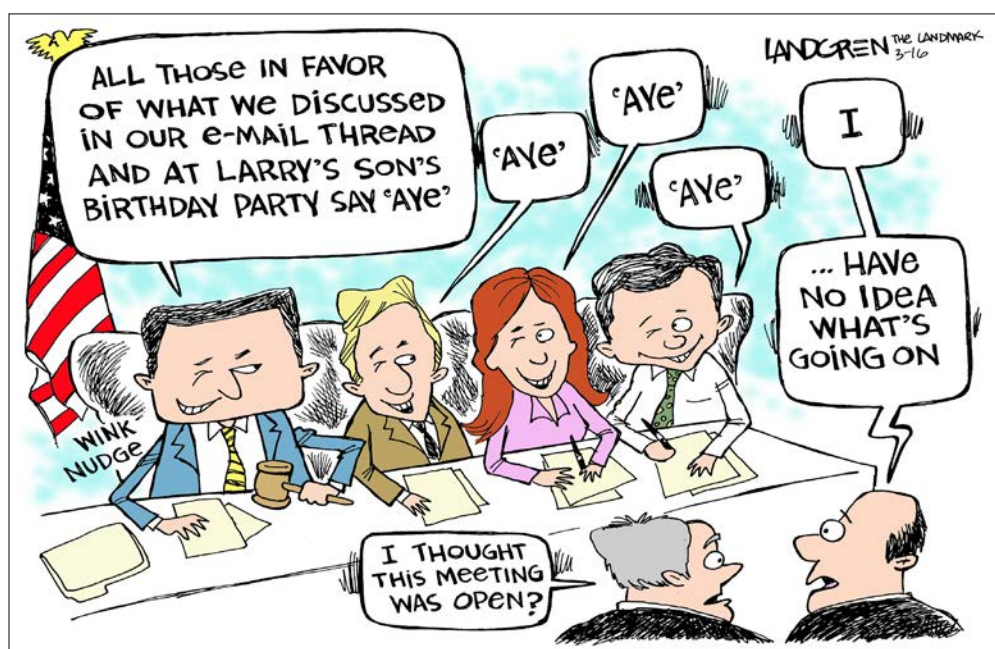
1. The existing loop ramp from US 21 southbound onto I-77 southbound will be closed and demolished to allow for the planned widening of I-77.
2. A yield sign will be installed on US 21 northbound where it enters the on-ramp to I-77 southbound.
3. A left-turn lane (see green line) and traffic signals will be added to US 21 southbound where it will turn left onto the on-ramp to I-77 southbound.

See **Exit 24** page 4A

Don't take good news coverage for granted!
Support The Voice

Subscribe today \$46 See page 3B





Is a Compromise Possible for Governor's Veto of Secret Athletic Contracts?



Guest Editorial

Jay Bender
Media Attorney

First, in the ordinary course of legislation, bills are assigned to committees. Most often bills are then referred to subcommittees where subcommittee members receive testimony from witnesses of whom they can ask questions regarding the legislation. Second, when a bill proceeds in the normal course through the committee and subcommittee process disagreements are often resolved by compromise.

There was no significant opportunity for testimony to note objections to the bill and no opportunity to discuss potential compromise.

In addition to keeping secret payments to athletes, the bill also keeps from the public information about how much revenue sharing money goes to each team. We

See **Editorial** page 2B

The General Assembly rushed to pass legislation to keep from public view how millions of dollars of public funds will be divided among college athletes. The bill, H. 4902, passed the House in three days without ever being assigned to a committee. The Senate passed the bill after receiving live testimony only from athletics directors at Carolina, Clemson and Coastal Carolina.

The speed with which the bill was passed was extraordinary in two significant ways.

Letter

It's Ethics - Where's The Money?

I would like to share my opinion: I'm sure I'm not the only one to feel this way.

As a citizen who voted for Mayor Sloan Griffin for his character and on merit, not his color, I find Mr Straiter's full review and treatment of the article about Mayor Griffin provocative. Mr. Straiter (and his

organization) appears to have received the \$20,000 of hospitality tax revenue.

The Mayor is being challenged due to his own record, not his color. For example, he made a position for Tiffany Cooks who was, at that time, under SLED investigation. She is now under a 16 count indictment by

See **Letter** page 2B



Driving

by Jeanette Smith

Living in Blythewood, everywhere I go takes 30 minutes. I try to make driving interesting so I will stay alert. That is a good thing. I loved listening to ETV's "Radio Reader" on my car radio back in the 80s. That got me into Books on Tape and an occasional bit of trouble.

I was stopped and heavily fined for breezing through a school zone while listening to a very dramatic part of a book.

Once, while on my way to a Circle meeting in LongCreek and listening to a book on tape, I kinda forgot where I was going, missed my turn, and ended up in Elgin. That was before GPS, and I thought I would never find my way back to Circle meeting.

Another way to make driving interesting is to watch for abandoned things on the side of the road. I hate to admit it, but I like to pick up some of these treasures. I can find small tables, chairs, toys, small logs just right for my wood burning stove and lots of chests of drawers.

I usually have someone in mind when I quickly put something in my car. But it is

not my best look! When I pick up things no one else wants, I take them to a consignment or thrift store. And sometimes back to the side of the road for someone else. I recently picked up a bamboo frame for a small table. It only needs a little tightening up and a glass top. Anyone interested?

One bad experience has made me more selective. A good-sized bag was dropped in the middle of Fulmer Road. Thinking it was a traffic hazard and just might be interesting, I stopped and threw it in the back seat of my car. In just a few minutes, I realized I'd rescued a bag of dirty diapers. I was halfway to town before I found a trash can.

Occasionally I must have looked pitiful, because strangers have stopped and helped me get something heavy or large into my car. Maybe I'm the first bag lady with a car.

One hint: The better the neighborhood the better the find!

Also, while driving, I keep my eyes open for tossed pieces of metal to take to Thomas Humphries who is a well-known recycling sculptor. Numerous times I have stopped to pick up large pieces of what looked like metal that has blown off or been knocked off a passing car. Plastic! Disappointed in the find and in the car manufacturer. Thomas grew up in Blythewood, so check him out online. Or better, take him a piece of metal!

I don't want to scare you, but another

See **Smith** page 2B



It's Time To Do Something Different

by Kenny Robertson

When people talk about the Constitution, they usually mean the United States Constitution. Turns out South Carolina has one too. I never knew. Did you know that? Which means for most of my life, I've been complaining about government ... but after reading both Constitutions it turns out I've been complaining about the wrong level of government.

Local government is extremely important. In many ways it affects your day-to-day life more than whoever happens to be sitting in the Oval Office.

Because here's something most people don't realize: local governments don't actually get their power directly from the U.S. Constitution. They get it from the state constitution. In South Carolina, that's Article VIII.

That section basically explains what counties and municipalities are allowed to do. Which means the structure for how Fairfield County operates ...is already written down. The rules exist. The tools exist. The question becomes whether we use them.

And here's where things get interesting. Under South Carolina's Constitution, counties can cooperate with other governments, build infrastructure, develop industrial parks, and create partnerships to support economic development. All that means is that local governments actually have more flexibility than most citizens realize.

Now I have to ask myself:

Self?

Yes, Kenny?

If the structure allows counties to build things, partner with neighbors, and create opportunities, why does Fairfield County sometimes feel like it's a bad song stuck on repeat?

Same conversations. Same debates. Same results.

After a while you start thinking, "Can somebody please change this song? We get it! You 'Got Your Boots On Da Ground.'"

Fairfield County could be one of the most interesting places in the Midlands — look at where we sit on the map.

We're right between a growing capital city in Columbia and development pushing up the I-77 corridor.

We've got land. Natural beauty. History. And small-town character that people from bigger cities are actively looking for.

That combination should be an advantage.

We could be stimulating growth. Improving services. Supporting our citizens. Protecting our land, pets, and wildlife. And still maintaining the Southern charm that makes Fairfield feel like home.

Forward-thinking doesn't mean losing tradition. It means building on it.

Structure matters, but leadership matters too.

At some point every community has to ask an honest question: *If the system allows progress, but progress isn't happening... what needs to change?*

Maybe the answer isn't tearing everything down. Maybe the answer is something simpler — passing the baton.

The people who helped build Fairfield deserve respect. Their experience matters.

But every generation eventually has to make room for the next one to step forward and help shape the future. Because if local citizens don't shape the future of Fairfield County, someone else will.

And when people with bigger wallets start dictating how things go, local communities often lose more control than they expected.

The Constitution doesn't guarantee progress. It simply gives us the tools. It's all a game, folks.

We have to accept that, then get involved. Understand the rules and work them in our favor. Because once you understand the rules of the game, you start to see why things happen the way they do.

And more importantly, how they could happen differently.

Kenny Robertson, an educator and comedian, is a native of Ridgeway.

SUNSHINE WEEK

MARCH 15-21, 2026

OPEN GOVERNMENT IS GOOD GOVERNMENT.

It's Sunshine Week, the annual celebration of access to public information. South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act – also known as the Sunshine Law – shines a light on public records and open government.

Use the FOIA to see how public officials are making decisions that affect you and your community.

Exercise your right to know.

LEARN MORE

Understand the law. Check out our Citizen's Guide to the Freedom of Information Act. It's available for free at spress.org/FOI.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS NEWSPAPER AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION
Defending open government for 174 years

The Voice
of Blythewood & Fairfield County

Ph (803) 767-5711

To place advertising, call (803) 767-5711

The Voice is an award-winning weekly newspaper published every Thursday in Blythewood and in Fairfield County, South Carolina. It is also distributed in Northeast Columbia and is available through subscription.

Our ads are designed by Ashley Ghere, an award-winning designer, and cannot be copied or reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher.

The Voice of Blythewood® and The Voice of Fairfield County® are publications of The Voice of Blythewood & Fairfield County, LLC®.

Blythewood Office
PO Box 675 • 303 Main St.
Blythewood, SC 29016

Fairfield County Office
PO Box 1211
118 S. Congress St.
Winnsboro, SC 29180

Barbara Ball, Publisher
barbara@blythewoodonline.com

Callie Ladd Sims, Editor
voice@blythewoodonline.com

Ashley Ghere, Designer

Reporters: Darlene Embleton, Grace Wells

Sports Writers: Worthy Evans, Mac Caldwell



Let's go!
**Sunday,
March 15**

Borrow a Bestie for the Day

Give a shelter dog a "daycation" through the Fairfield County Animal Shelter's Hearts Unleashed program. Check out a dog for the day and provide an adventure! See the ad on page 2B or call (803) 571-4623 today.

COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR BLYTHEWOOD & FAIRFIELD COUNTY

UPCOMING

Golden Rule Food Pantry will hold a **Free Food Box Giveaway on Friday, March 20** from 8 - 11 a.m. at 136 Rimer Pond Rd in Blythewood. Contact (803)603-7094 with questions.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church will celebrate its **Jubilee Choir's 95th Anniversary on Sunday, March 22 at 2 p.m.** 1025 Abney Hill Rd., Blythewood.

Fairfield County **Ducks Unlimited's Annual Spring Frenzy** is set for **Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m.** at The Farm at Ridgeway, 3248 US-2, Ridgeway. Purchase tickets at ducksunlimited.myeventscenter.com.

Fairfield County Parks and Recreation will host an **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** at Drawdy Park, 702 Eighth St. in Winnsboro. Meet the Easter Bunny, do an Easter egg craft, enjoy a bounce house.

The Richland County Recreation Commission and Sheriff's Department are teaming up for a **Youth Awareness Hoop Fest on Saturday, March 28 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** at Blythewood Park, 126 Boney Rd. in Blythewood. Event is free for all ages. For more information, contact (803)691-9786.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church's annual **Community Easter Egg Hunt** is set for **Saturday, March 28 from 12 - 3 p.m.** Games, food, the Easter Bunny and prizes for all youth. 2092 Longtown Road in Ridgeway. This free event is sponsored by the Youth Ministry.

First United Methodist Church will hold **Holy Week worship services** from 12 - 12:30 p.m. **Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3.** Free lunch provided from 12:30 - 1 p.m. following the services. Donations for Fairfield County Food Bank will be collected. All are welcome. 109 W. College St., Winnsboro.

Mt. Pleasant Church will host **Holy Week services** on **Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 6 p.m.**, **Good Friday, April 3 at 6 p.m.**, **Easter Sunrise on Sunday, April 5 at 7:30 a.m.**, and **Easter Service at 9:30 a.m.** 736 Campground Rd.

Fairfield Behavioral Health Services will host its 26th Annual **Run for Recovery 5K on Saturday, April 17.** Register at strictlyrunning.com.

ONGOING

Ridgeway Recreation Center offers **Senior Citizen Chair Exercises** classes each **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at noon; Craft classes Mondays at 1 p.m.;** Bingo twice a month and a **Senior Citizen trip** once a month. Monthly calendars of events are available at the center, located at 1900 US Hwy 21 South in Ridgeway and on the Fairfield County Parks & Recreation webpage. For more information call (803)337-7358.

Alcoholics Anonymous Doko Group meets **Fridays at 7 p.m.** at Trinity Methodist Church, 90 Boney Rd, Blythewood.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Group (Open Group Discussion) is hosted at Fairfield Behavioral Health Services, 178 US Hwy 321 Bypass N, Winnsboro on **Tuesdays from 7 - 8 p.m.**

Fairfield Community Food Bank is open **Tues. and Thurs. from 10 a.m. - noon** at 100 US Hwy 321 Bypass S in Winnsboro.

Christian Assistance Bridge is in need of donations. CAB is open at 126 Blythewood Rd., **M & Th from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** 803-786-1903.

The Round Top Baptist Church **Grief Ministry** meets every **3rd Thursday** of the month from **6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** 120 Round Top Ct., Blythewood.

Blythewood Museum is open **Tues - Thurs from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** 803-333-8133 or info@blythewoodhistoricalsociety.org.

and **4th Mondays** of each month at **6 p.m.** at 250 N. Walnut St., Winnsboro.

MEETINGS

Blythewood Rotary Club meets on **Thursdays** at Columbia Country Club, 135 Columbia Club Drive W. Coffee at 7:15, breakfast at 7:30, meeting at **7:45 a.m.**

Fairfield County Council meets the **2nd**

Blythewood Town Council will meet on **Monday, March 23 at 6 p.m.** Doko Manor, 100 Alvina Hagood Cir, Blythewood.

To submit an event, meeting, cancellation or closure, e-mail voice@blythewoodonline.com.

Now Open
MONDAYS
4-8 PM

PIZZA • SUBS
CALZONES • SALADS

SARAH N' GEO'S
Pizza | Pasta | Calzones | Desserts

803-337-0520 | SarahNGeos.com
170 S. Palmer St. in Ridgeway

Midlands STEM Charter School

INFORMATION & ENROLLMENT SESSIONS

Presentation & Curriculum	Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 6 pm
Campus Tour Enrollment	Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 9 am
Questions & answers	Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 6 pm
	Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 9 am
	Tuesday, March 10 at 6 pm
	Tuesday, March 24 at 9 am
	Tuesday, April 28 at 6 pm
	Tuesday, May 12 at 6 pm

854 HWY 321 Business South, Winnsboro
803-815-1524 | MidlandsSTEM.org



The sanctuary was filled during both morning worship services.

photos/Barbara Ball

Village Church opens new 1,200-seat worship center

Barbara Ball
Publisher

BLYTHEWOOD - Village Church held its first Sunday services in its new 1,200-seat worship center on Sunday.

"This new facility will be a blessing to not only our existing members of Village Church, but to Blythewood and the surrounding communities as well," said Senior Pastor Erik Estep.

Members and visitors filled the sanctuary twice during two separate services at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. for the inaugural worship service. Visitors included S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson and his daughter Anna as well as U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson and his wife Roxanne. Sen. Lindsey Graham's videoed congratulatory message was shown on one of three giant screens at the front of the auditorium, and Gov. Henry McMaster sent his grand opening message via letter.

The 25,000 square foot building consists of the sanctuary, a large nursery and an oversized hallway and lobby that features a large well-appointed hospitality counter at each end where members and visitors can enjoy coffee and sometimes other refreshments.

"The lobby is a comfortable



Senior Pastor Erik Estep in the lobby of the church.

space that provides plenty of room for mingling and visiting before and after services," Estep said. "We have a lot of members who drive a ways to get here — Fairfield County, Chapin, Columbia, and other area towns."

As the church approaches its 24th anniversary, it has grown from a small meeting room in Lake Carolina to a 50-acre complex on Rimer Pond Road that includes not only the new building but two smaller ones that the congregation grew through over the years. The acreage also includes a pond that the church recently purchased. The new



SC Attorney General Alan Wilson and his daughter Anna were among several special guests at the morning service.



Patti Rabon, left, hands out mementos following the service.

worship center is connected to the smaller sanctuary that currently houses the children and student center, and will be reconstructed to include six classrooms as well.

The church's services stream on YouTube, Facebook and on the Village Church app.

With the seating capacity increasing by 60 percent of the previous worship center, the church will be moving from three to two services on Sunday mornings.

The church is located at 574 Rimer Pond Road in Blythewood. For more information, contact Village Church at 803-419-0989 or @VillageChurchSC on Facebook.



One of two hospitality counters in the entrance lobby.

Exit 24
From page 1A

- Two left-turn lanes (see green line) will be added to the I-77 northbound off-ramp where it connects to US 21 southbound. The existing free-flow right-turn lane onto US 21 northbound will not be impacted by these changes.
- A traffic signal will be installed where the northbound I-77 off-ramp connects to US 21 southbound.

Erosion
From page 1A

The issue arose June 30, 2025, when SCDES (S. C. Department of Environmental Services) petitioned the S.C. Administrative Law Court for enforcement and injunctive relief based on the failure of Longtown Road East's owners (Fairways Development, LLC; the Windermere Club, LLC; and Lake Holding Company, Inc.) to comply with the terms and requirements of Inspection

and Repair Order 25-001-W for Lake Columbia Dam.

Before the Court issued a Notice of Hearing on the matter, the parties settled and filed a Consent Order on Feb. 3, 2026.

According to de Holczer, Dan Creel, a professional engineer, has been consulted by the landowner to determine what actions are necessary for the repair of the dam.

We hope that this letter will encourage major stakeholders in the neighborhood to work together to address the erosion affecting Longtown Dam.

"SCDOT looks forward to reviewing an Encroachment Permit application for the repair of the dam," de Holczer wrote. "We hope the dam can be repaired in the near future to avoid SCDOT having to close the road."

YEARS OF RELIABLE COMFORT.



Comfortmaker
Air Conditioning & Heating



STAY COOL WITH LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS: 0% INTEREST FOR 60 MONTHS.

EXPIRES ON MAY 29TH 2026

Don't wait for the summer heat to hit. Secure premium HVAC installation with elite financing and 10 years of parts and labor protection.

No Interest if Paid in Full within Promotional Period with Regular Monthly Payments. This is a deferred interest promotion. This means that if you do not pay off the purchase balance in full within the special terms promotional period, interest will be charged to your account on the original purchase amount from the purchase date at the regular APR for Purchases rate of 28.99%. The length of this promotion will vary. Paying only the minimum monthly payment will not pay off the purchase balance before the end of the special terms promotional period. To avoid interest charges, you must either pay more than the minimum monthly payment or make a lump sum payment(s) before the end of the special terms promotional period. Special Rate with Equal or Fixed Monthly Payments. A special (reduced) rate will apply until you pay your qualifying purchase in full. You must make equal or fixed monthly payments. This Credit Card is issued with approval credit by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.



803-786-4978



4.9 Rating 280 Reviews

blythewoodhvac.net

@BlythewoodHeating

CELEBRATING OVER 25 YEARS OF BUSINESS

Bengals 'Chip Away' at Vikings in 19-7 win

Worthy Evans
Reporter

BLYTHEWOOD - The Blythewood baseball team received a rude welcome to the Spring Valley sports complex in the first inning Tuesday night.

The Vikings hammered the Bengals 7 runs on 6 hits before Blythewood got the final out of the inning.

The end of the first spelled the end of Spring Valley's threat. Blythewood blanked the Vikings the rest of the way and scored in every inning in a 19-7 victory that ended after six innings.

Head coach Travis Poole noted that the Bengals (6-2, 3-0 Region 5-5A) got off to another slow start at A.C. Flora Saturday but pulled out a 9-7 victory then.

"We were down Saturday 4-0, chipped away and won that game. Now we're down 7-3 in the first, we started chipping away again," he said. "Hats off to these guys. They don't give up, they're going to do what they do, stay aggressive. Good things will happen, but we've got to be better early."

Amare Counts led the way with a 3-for-4 performance at the plate, including an RBI single in Blythewood's 3-run first inning and a grand slam in the Bengals' 7-run second.

Johnny Collins also homered with a 2-run shot in the sixth inning, and Cooper Penfield had an RBI double.

Down 3-0, the Vikings' seven runs in the bottom half of the



Blythewood is off to an early 3-0 record in region play. *BHS Baseball*

first lit up the scoreboard. Brady Evans, who went 2-for-4 with 3 RBI, hit a 3-run home run with nobody out to get the Vikings started. Jacob Smoak later scored on Andrew Kirby's one-out single, M Saltzman scored on C Aldrich's two-out single, and Rummel walked J Williams with the bases loaded for the seventh run.

Johnson took the mound and

got Evans out on a fly ball to center field.

From there on, the senior right-hander pitched 5 1/3 innings of 3-hit ball, striking out 6 and walking 0.

"Chance has been the guy for us. We haven't had to use him a lot, but every time we've used him this year he's been real good," Poole said of his starting

infielder who played at second base Tuesday. "He was the first one I thought about (to take the mound), and for a lot of teams he's a starter. I like to use him in relief because he's real good for us defensively."

While Johnson kept the Vikings batters off balance, the Blythewood bats stayed hot. The Bengals picked up 3 runs in the third inning, 1 in the fourth, 1 in the fifth and 4 runs in the sixth to go with the 10 runs piled up in the first two frames.

"You've got some guys in the lineup who have been there and buy in to what we're trying to do," Poole said.

The baseball team plays host to the Vikings Thursday. The Bengals have a home game Friday against A.C. Flora and play host to Lugoff-Elgin Tuesday.

FRIDAY

BLYTHEWOOD - 0-0-3-2-0-4-0 - 9, 8, 5

A.C. FLORA - 4-0-0-0-0-3-0 - 7, 6, 2

WP: Cooper Penfield, 2.0 IP, 1H

B - Sergio Melendez 2-3. Amare Counts 2-2, 2B, HR, 3 RBI. Johnny Collins HR. Brandon Bolton 2B.

F - Monty Laffitte 2-2, 2RBI. Tyler Hernandez 3B, 2 RBI. Charlie Scott 2B.

TUESDAY

BLYTHEWOOD - 3-7-3-1-1-4 - 19, 11, 1

SPRING VALLEY - 7-0-0-0-0-0 - 7, 9, 5

WP: Chance Johnson, 5.1 IP, 3H, OR, OER, 6K

B - Amare Counts 3-4, HR, 6 RBI. Navy Strickland 2-3. Johnny Collins HR. Cooper Penfield 2B.

S - Brady Evans 2-4, HR, 3 RBI. Jackson Williams 2B.



Poole Gets Win 500 - *BHS Baseball*
Blythewood head baseball coach Travis Poole earned his 500th career coaching victory March 10 as the Bengals opened the 2026 season with a win over Westwood High School. Poole, now in his third year leading the Blythewood program, entered the 2026 campaign with an overall career record of 497-264. Under Poole's leadership, the Bengals have maintained their status as a powerhouse in the Midlands.

Bengals open region with 3 straight shutouts

Staff Reports
The Voice

BLYTHEWOOD — After a dominant 2025 campaign, the Blythewood girls soccer team has found its rhythm early in the new season. They currently sit at 3-0 in region play following their 3-0 win over Lugoff-Elgin on Tuesday night.

The Bengals (4-2) are currently riding a 3-game winning streak, having outscored region opponents 17-0 over the last week. The stretch of dominance serves as a strong follow-up to the 2025 season in which Blythewood finished 17-2-1 and went undefeated in the region.

The Bengals secured an 11-0 win as they opened region play on March 10 against cross-town rival Westwood. Junior Caroline Powell led the charge with a hat trick, while Regan Flynn, Mia Hendry and freshman Kylee Gardiner each added 2 goals. Lauren Thye and Josie Woodley also contributed goals. Thye had two assists on the night; Flynn, Hendry and Gardiner had one apiece.

The Bengals carried their momentum through their 3-0 win over Spring Valley on March 13. Flynn found the back of the net twice and Hendry added a goal and an assist.

With another 3-0 win, this time over Lugoff-Elgin on March 17, the Bengals have now won 15 consecutive region matches dating back to the start of last season.

While the offense has been high-powered, the Bengals' defense has been equally impressive. Senior Chyna Bush and freshman Milan Nalls have combined for 5 shutouts across the first six games of the season.

On March 6, they faced a physical battle in a non-region match against River Bluff, the team that ended Blythewood's 2025 playoff run. Nalls recorded 7 saves to keep the Gators scoreless through regulation, but River Bluff eventually took the win in a 3-1 shootout.

The Bengals opened play in a late February tournament, where they split two games. After a 3-0 loss to Oceanside Collegiate Academy, Blythewood bounced back with a 1-0 win over Fort Mill behind a goal from Powell and a 5-save shutout from Bush.

Blythewood will look to maintain its spot at the top of the standings as it continues the heavy portion of its region schedule.

Blythewood will continue to battle through the region on March 20 at home against West Florence and at Sumter on March 24 before breaking from region play for a game at Gray Collegiate Academy on March 27.

Experienced Bengal squad cruises by Spring Valley

Worthy Evans
Reporter

BLYTHEWOOD - On the softball diamond, the senior-laden Bengals (3-2, 3-0) had a less dramatic night against Spring Valley on Tuesday.

Blythewood got steady pitching from starter Codi Goff and reliever Lily Zell, and Cici Martin, Gabby Cadena and Macie Young all doubled to lead the Bengals to a 6-1 win.

"We've got 13 seniors, a lot of experience and we've got a lot of options, a lot of people to plug in and out," head softball coach Jordan Atkinson said. "So far it's been a good year. Our two losses were both by one run, both games were like if the ball falls here, better pitch there, get a bunt down, we win. We've got a good, experienced group."

Cadena was 3-for-3 and batted in 2 runs, and Young drove in 2 more runs with her double in the sixth. Rhames Weisinger also had 2 hits.

"Rhames has been killing all year, solid behind the plate," Atkinson said. "Macie Young, our third baseman, has really come on with a double off the wall tonight and a home run at Westwood. Makayla Ford has been our shortstop for 4 or 5 years and has been hitting the ball as well."

Goff, who picked up the win, pitched three full innings and gave up four hits, walked three, and struck out one. Zell threw the remaining four innings and gave up two hits and struck out five while walking one.

"Lily's been great. In our game against Darlington (a 4-3 loss Friday) she came in for the last four when it was 3-1 and pretty much did the same thing then."

Blythewood softball plays host to Spring Valley in a doubleheader Thursday. The Bengals take on Lugoff-Elgin for another home doubleheader Tuesday.

THURSDAY

BLYTHEWOOD - 0-0-3-0-2-0-5 - 10, 12, 0

WESTWOOD - 0-0-0-0-0-0-1 - 1, 3, 4



Gabby Cadena (9) went 3-3 with a double and 2 RBIs in the Bengals' 6-1 win over Spring Valley. *Blythewood Softball*

WP: Lily Zell, 7.0 IP, 3H, 1R, 1ER, 7K.

B - Macie Young 3-5, HR, 2B, 2 RBI. Rhames Weisinger 3-4, 2B. Lily Zell 2 RBI.

W - J Hammett HR. C Pettaway 2-3.

FRIDAY

BLYTHEWOOD - 0-0-0-1-2-0-0 - 3, 7, 0

DARLINGTON - 0-3-0-0-1-0-X - 4, 6, 0

WP: Malaya Holt, 7 IP, 7H, 3R, 3ER, 4BB.

B - Molly Wolf 2-4, 3B. Gabby Cook 2-3, 2B.

Makayla Ford HR. Rhames Weisinger 2B.

D - Zaria Mack 2-3, 2B, 3 RBI.

TUESDAY

BLYTHEWOOD - 1-0-0-2-0-2-1 - 6, 9, 2

SPRING VALLEY - 1-0-0-0-0-0-0 - 1, 6, 0

WP: Codi Goff, 3.0 IP, 4H, 1R, 1ER, 3BB, 1K

B - Gabby Cadena 3-3, 2B, 2 RBI. Rhames Weisinger 2-3. Cici Martin 2B, Macie Young 2B.

S - Allie Pritchard 2-4, Riley Ropel 2-4.

Westwood takes out Ridge View 12-2 in 5 innings

Staff Reports
The Voice

BLYTHEWOOD - An explosive seven-run first inning and a no-hit performance from Blaize Owen propelled Westwood to a 12-2 mercy-rule win over Ridge View on Tuesday night.

Owen was dominant on the mound, facing 17 batters over four innings of work. Despite walking five, the right-hander struck out five and allowed no hits to keep the Blazers' bats silenced.

The Redhawks (2-2, 1-2 Region 5-5A) wasted no time in the bottom of the first. After Jayden Quarles walked and stole second and Zachary Nelson was hit by a pitch, Austin Jeffcoat cleared the bases with a line-drive triple to center field to give Westwood a quick 2-0 lead.

The onslaught continued as Kellen Moore drove in a run with a single to left, followed by a Josiah Henryhand walk to load the bases. A Ridge View error allowed two more runs to cross the plate before Elijah Smith

capped the seven-run frame by scoring on a passed ball.

Bats less potent in the middle innings, the Redhawks' early lead was more than enough to end the game in the fifth. Moore finished a perfect 2-for-2 at the plate, while Nathan Caldwell added a double. Smith finished the night with three RBIs.

The win helps the Redhawks bounce back from a 6-3 region loss at home to Blythewood last Thursday. In that matchup, Jeffcoat went 2-for-2 and Henryhand doubled, but a four-run third inning by the Bengals proved too much for Westwood to overcome. The win was Blythewood's second over Westwood last week.

The Redhawks opened play on the road with a 4-3 thriller over Wando on March 6. Tied at three in the top of the seventh, Nathan Caldwell singled to give Westwood the go-ahead run.

Caldwell also earned the win on in relief of Owen, he allowed just one hit and no runs in two innings. He struck out two and

walked two.

Westwood travels to Ridge View on Thursday for a region rematch before a break from region play next week. Westwood hits the road to face Great Falls on Tuesday, then hosts the Red Devils at home on Wednesday, March 25. They'll return to region play at Spring Valley on March 31.

MARCH 6

WESTWOOD - 0-0-0-1-2-0-1 - 4, 3, 3

WANDO - 0-0-1-0-0-2-0 - 3, 2, 3

WP: Nate Caldwell, 2.0 IP, 1H, OR, 2BB, 2K

WESTWOOD - Austin Jeffcoat 1-3, BB. Nate Caldwell 1-3, RBI, BB. Kellen Moore 1-3.

WANDO - C Anderson 1-3, BB, RBI. J DiMartino 1-4, BB.

THURSDAY

BLYTHEWOOD - 0-0-4-0-0-0-2 - 6, 7, 1

WESTWOOD - 1-0-0-1-1-0-0 - 3, 6, 4

WP: Andrew Blackwell, 4.2 IP, 5H, 3R, 3ER, 4BB, 8K

B - Andrew Blackwell 2-4. Caleb Blackwell 2-4. Amare Counts HR, 2 RBI.

W - Austin Jeffcoat 2-2. Josiah Henryhand 2B.

TUESDAY

RIDGE VIEW - 1-0-1-0-0-X-X - 2, 1, 14

WESTWOOD - 7-1-2-1-1-X-X - 12, 8, 3



Jayden Quarles (3) scores in Westwood's 4-3 win over Wando. *Westwood Baseball*

WP: Blaize Owen, 4.0 IP, OH, 2R, OER, 5BB, 5K.

W - Kellen Moore 2-2. Austin Jeffcoat 3B, 3 RBI. Blaize Owen 2B. Nathan Caldwell 2B. Elijah Smith 3 RBI.

Letter

From page 2A

SLED, charged with public corruption. And what about Mayor Griffin's involvement in the financial losses at Doko Manor in the thousands due to not following the process set up by the Town government? And now, giving \$20,000 to Mr. Straiter and his business. These are the reasons all citizens should be concerned and want to resolve these issues ...not because of Mayor Griffin's

color, but because of unethical issues. Mr Straiter talks about transparency and fairness. It is not fair that the Blythwood citizens have to shoulder the burden of missing \$20,000 and thousands more in the loss at Doko manor. Transparency is what we all want!

Neysa Molle
Blythwood

Editorial

From page 2A

are talking about millions of dollars sheltered from public view by this bill. Carolina and Clemson each has \$20.5 million to divide among players and teams this year. The amount increases next year and thereafter. Revenue sharing between schools and athletes is the result of a lawsuit brought by athletes who saw that their name, image, likeness and labor was reaping millions for schools and coaches but a pittance for players. Gov. Henry McMaster, long an advocate for public access to public records going back to his days as Attorney General, vetoed the legislation. In his veto message, the Governor said he was willing to accept confidentiality (read secrecy) in player contracts but thought withholding information about the division of money among teams went too far. The governor is correct. No competing school is going to pump more money into a specific sport because it learns what our universities are spending. South Carolina schools are not the market-maker here. I would like to offer a proposed compromise. Rep. Justin Bamberg made a compelling argument that disclosing the amount of money each individual player would receive would in many instances expose a player to fraud or worse. The athletics directors argued that if competing schools knew how much a star player was making, the player could be "poached" by a school willing to pay more money. In the real world players negotiating to change schools, or agents for the athletes, will disclose to the prospective school the amount of money the athlete is making. The

argument by the schools doesn't withstand scrutiny, but it creates a political reality that must be acknowledged. So, what is the compromise solution? The model exists already. Coaches sign multiyear contracts with clauses that require the coach to pay money to the school to purchase or "buyout" the time remaining on the contract if the coach wishes to leave for greener pastures. Sign players to multiyear contracts with buyout provisions that will make "poaching" more expensive. If a school is unwilling to enter into a multiyear contract, it has to accept the consequences that an athlete might seek more money or better benefits after a one-year contract expires. With respect to individual player confidentiality, redact the name of the athlete from the contract for so long as the athlete is under contract or enrolled in school. Thereafter, the contract in its entirety is available for public inspection and copying just like the contracts with coaches, athletics directors and others employed at public institutions. A similar plan exists where public bodies are negotiating to purchase property. The documents relating to the negotiations are withheld from the public until the deal is completed or falls through. Consideration of a compromise might enhance public confidence that our legislators are conducting themselves as representatives and not rulers. Jay Bender is a retired University of South Carolina professor and media lawyer who represents the S.C. Press Association and its newspapers.

GET A DOG FOR A DAY!

Give a shelter dog a "Daycation"

You can check out a dog for the day at the **Fairfield County Animal Shelter** and provide a wonderful adventure for you both!

Call today **(803) 571-4623**

Hearts Unleashed
Fairfield County Animal Control

HeartsUnleashed.org | info@heartsunleashed.org

SCRAMBLERS
Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Spring
PALE

Deride
CORNS

Degree
TEXTEN

Answer
LOVES

TODAY'S WORD

"I'd like to invest some money in _____, I hear they're going up!"

Smith

From page 2A

way I stay alert while driving is to identify the birds I see along the way and the types of trees along the roadway. Staying alert on long drives is the goal, as I know how quickly a little sleepy nod can land you in a ditch. I once woke up just in time to find myself driving into and out of a ditch without a pause. Being wide awake at that point, I just drove on home. That is when I found I could turn right, but not left - dented fender. I got home but I couldn't turn left into my driveway. One thing has changed about my driving

habits. I have just about stopped picking up strangers. The last person I stopped for on a hot day was a young man on a long, mostly unpopulated road carrying food and drinks on a take-out tray. I was so puzzled as to where he had gotten the food and how long he had been carrying it, I just had to stop. He said he was right at the house where he was heading. I will never know the story!

Janette Smith, 95, a Blythwood resident, has been active in the community's civic affairs for over 50 years.

Super Crossword **CROSS WORDS**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swing by
 - 6 Sop up
 - 12 Fez or beret
 - 15 General — chicken
 - 19 Preface
 - 20 "Hello" singer
 - 21 Santa — winds
 - 22 Eight, in Berlin
 - 23 Alternative to potstickers
 - 26 Trevi Fountain city
 - 27 Golf prop
 - 28 Requiring lots of attention
 - 29 L-P linkup
 - 30 "— Up My Heart" (1997 "NSYNC song)
 - 32 Call before the court
 - 35 Touchy topic
 - 37 Skit-filled NBC show, in brief
 - 38 Texas-Louisiana border river
 - 41 Three, in Paris
 - 42 H.G. Wells' Doctor Moreau, e.g.
 - 46 Penetrating
 - 47 Get older
 - 50 Give off
 - 51 Shaggy's nickname for his dog
 - 52 Pollen lover
 - 53 Actress
 - 54 "Life Is Good" rapper
 - 55 Letter after pi
 - 56 212 degrees Fahrenheit, for water
 - 61 "Yup"
 - 63 Big Apple sch.
 - 66 Alpha Sig, e.g.
 - 67 Speaks from a soapbox
 - 68 Right after being baked
 - 72 Fake: Prefix
 - 75 Stalagmite site
 - 76 Camera type, in brief
 - 77 Acting award
 - 81 Brand of hard cider
 - 84 Google Play download
 - 86 Tokyo sash
 - 87 Prefix with byte or ton
 - 88 Suffix with Euclid
 - 89 An ex-Trump
 - 92 Fix typos, say
 - 93 Plus more: Abbr.
 - 94 \$5 bills, in slang
 - 96 Intense controversy
 - 99 "That doesn't ring —"
 - 101 Regressed
 - 102 — -la-la
 - 103 Group of warriors in "Kung Fu Panda"
 - 106 Church part for the clergy
 - 110 Chant
 - 111 Boxing great
 - 112 Flummoxed
 - 115 Suffix with Motor
 - 116 British prep school
 - 117 Oxidizer in liquid rocket propellants
 - 122 Swedish soprano
 - 123 '50s prez
 - 124 — Mae (HUD corp.)
 - 125 Yo-yo part
 - 126 Lucy's guy
 - 127 Toon
 - 128 Villains' looks
 - 129 What nine key words in this puzzle are synonyms of
 - 130 Panorama
 - 131 Entomb
 - 132 Navigate
 - 133 A Gershwin brother
 - 134 Male tabby
 - 135 Eve of old TV
 - 136 — one's time
 - 137 Missile in the Gulf War
 - 138 "Heavens!"
 - 139 Shred
 - 140 — Stakes (horse race)
 - 141 Kayak cousin
 - 142 "Gemini Man" director
 - 143 Grazing land
 - 144 "Proud Mary" star — P. Henson
 - 145 Makes the Billboard Top 40, e.g.
 - 146 Of a resistance unit
 - 147 Artery insert
 - 148 Like Brits
 - 149 Pertaining to
 - 150 Black, to Poe
 - 151 Aide: Abbr.
 - 152 U.S. "Ltd."
 - 153 Female sib
 - 36 Dutch artist Jan
 - 38 — -Cat
 - 39 From — Z
 - 40 Lettuce type
 - 42 Option list
 - 43 East Asian nanny
 - 44 Platter
 - 45 — Lodge (motel chain)
 - 46 Actor Harvey
 - 48 Heredity unit
 - 49 Wolves down
 - 52 Malaise, with "the"
 - 53 Horse colors
 - 55 Little — (the Ocean State)
 - 57 Proposal
 - 58 Original NYC subway line
 - 59 State exec.
 - 60 Before surgery, in brief
 - 62 "Star Trek" lieutenant
 - 64 Agave plants
 - 65 Salt Lake City native
 - 69 Additionally
 - 70 Fertilizable gametes
 - 71 Chimp's kin
 - 72 Book division
 - 73 Vexed state
 - 74 Dairy case containers
 - 78 Musical finale
 - 79 Somewhat
 - 80 Act of liturgy
 - 82 Film units
 - 83 Uses a trowel
 - 85 Noodles in peanut sauce
 - 90 Battle (for)
 - 91 Additionally
 - 92 Israel's Abba
 - 94 Vast stretch
 - 95 Large tuna
 - 96 Wild rants
 - 97 Gorilla, e.g.
 - 98 Historic time
 - 100 Olympic swimmer
 - 101 Actress Taylor
 - 103 Grazing land
 - 104 De-knot
 - 105 Renowned
 - 106 Asteroid
 - 108 T-man Ness
 - 109 Big dipper
 - 112 Comic Meara
 - 113 Rake prong
 - 114 Mix, as paint
 - 118 Luau guitar, for short
 - 119 Martini liquor
 - 120 Longtime CBS series
 - 121 30-day mo.

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- 1. Very talkative D Fret R
- 2. Rosie's target T Danube or Thames R
- 3. Next to B Inhabit R
- 4. Striped feline G Rome's waterway B
- 5. Military task L Keep back N
- 6. Lion's group D Blue ribbon, e.g. Z
- 7. Mental well-being S Make-up table V
- 8. Egypt's city O Scotland's terrier N
- 9. Thermometer unit G Pronouncement C
- 10. Youngster D Spicy stew I

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Leap 2. Score; 3. Extent; 4. Solve

TAXES
Today's Word

Super Crossword
Answers

Even Exchange
Answers

1. Wordy, Worry
2. River, Vanity
3. Sanity, Vanity
4. Beside, Reside
5. Tiger, Tiger
6. Pride, Prize
7. Sanity, Vanity
8. Cairo, Cairo
9. Degree, Decree
10. Child, Chill

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Abandoned Autos

1998 Chevrolet Pickup, S-Truck VIN:# 1GCCS1947W8206526
 Contact R&C Automotive, LLC at 803-917-2976 for any additional information.
 03/05/26, 03/12/26, 03/19/26

Announcements

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-855-900-1261

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 833-230-8692

We Buy Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-704-3381

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance – NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-397-7030 www.dental50plus.com/60 #6258

Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION. Sat., March 28 at 9:30 am. 510 Stoller Rd (Hwy 301), Bamberg, SC. Selling out local business and consignments! Call now to consign! Cars, trucks, golf carts, ATVs, shop equipment, tons of tools, trailers, signs, lots of stainless items, restaurant equipment, much more! www.cogburnauction.com 803-860-0712.

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 80 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 1.5 million readers. Call Randall Savelly at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 803-750-9561.

Employment

ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS in 80 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 1.5 million readers. Call Randall Savelly at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 803-750-9561.

Legals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD
 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 Case No. 2025CP2000241
 SUMMONS
 Founders Federal Credit Union, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 Tenise J. Peay a/k/a Tenise Peay and James C. Peay a/k/a James Peay, Defendants.
 TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE-NAMED: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint on the person whose name is subscribed below at 737 Plantation Road, Lancaster, South Carolina 29720, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service. The Summons and Complaint in this action were filed on August 22, 2025 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Fairfield County. If you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for a judgment by default to be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
 Philip E. Wright
 Michael G. Lindsay
 Founders Federal Credit Union
 737 Plantation Road
 Lancaster, SC 29720
 (803) 289-5390
 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
 03/05/26, 03/12/26, 03/19/26

SPECIAL REFEREE
 NOTICE OF SALE
 2025-CP-20-00335

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC vs. James Buggs a/k/a James Arthur Buggs, I, the undersigned J. Kershaw Spong, Special Referee for Fairfield County, or his/her designee will sell on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 11:00 AM, at the County Courthouse, 101 South Congress Street, Winnsboro, SC 29180.

The property to be sold to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, in the County of Fairfield, State of South Carolina, and being shown as Lot H of Benson Estates in Plat Book 605 at Page 179. Said property also being shown on a plat prepared for James Buggs and Claudette Buggs prepared by W.D. Bozard, dated August 24, 2000 and recorded in Plat Book 605 at Page 349 in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Fairfield County.

This being the same property conveyed to James Buggs and Claudette Buggs by deed of Johnnie M. Benson dated September 28, 2000 and recorded October 6, 2000 in Book QO at Page 52 in the Office of the Clerk of Court/Register of Deeds for Fairfield County.

Subsequently, Claudette Buggs died on or about May 29, 2005, leaving the subject property to her heir, namely James Buggs, as is more fully preserved in the probate records for Fairfield County in Probate Case No. 2005-ES-20-00113; also by that Deed of Distribution dated May 22, 2006 and recorded May 31, 2006, in Book 783 at Page 319 in the Office of the Clerk of Court/Register of Deeds for Fairfield County.

TMS No. 186-01-05-015-000

Property address: 418 E. Broad Street, Ridgeway, SC 29130

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of said bid is due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding, in certified funds or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of

Legals

non-compliance. In the event of a third party bidder and that any third party bidder fails to deliver the required deposit in certified (immediately collectible) funds with the Office of the Special Referee, said deposit being due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding on the day of sale, the Special Referee will re-sell the subject property at the most convenient time thereafter (including the day of sale) upon notification to counsel for Plaintiff. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to comply with the balance due of the bid within 30 days, then the Special Referee may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder).

No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately. Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on Special Referee's Deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 6.624% per annum. The Plaintiff may waive any of its rights, including its right to a deficiency judgment, prior to sale.

The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record.

This sale is subject to all title matters of record and any interested party should consider performing an independent title examination of the subject property as no warranty is given.

The sale will not be held unless either Plaintiff's attorney or Plaintiff's bidding agent is present at the sale and either Plaintiff's attorney or Plaintiff's bidding agent enters the authorized bid of Plaintiff for this captioned matter. In the alternative, Plaintiff's counsel, if permitted by the Court, may advise this Court directly of its authorized bidding instructions. In the event a sale is inadvertently held without Plaintiff's Counsel or Counsel's bidding agent entering the authorized bid of Plaintiff for this specifically captioned matter, the sale shall be null and void and the property shall be re-advertised for sale on the next available sale date.

Neither the Plaintiff nor its counsel make representations as to the integrity of the title or the fair market value of the property offered for sale. Prior to bidding you may wish to review the current state law or seek the advice of any attorney licensed in South Carolina.

J. Kershaw Spong
 Special Referee for Fairfield County
 Scott and Corley, P.A.
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 03/19/26, 03/26/26, 04/02/26

SPECIAL REFEREE
 NOTICE OF SALE
 2025-CP-20-00294

BY VIRTUE of a decree heretofore granted in the case of: NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing vs. John Davis Peay, Jr., I, the undersigned Milton E. Hamilton, Special Referee for Fairfield County, or his/her designee will sell on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 11:00 AM, at the County Courthouse, 101 South Congress Street, Winnsboro, SC 29180.

The property to be sold to the highest bidder:

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with improvements thereon, if any, located in Fairfield County, State of South Carolina, designated as 1.02 acres (less 0.27 acre for highway right of way), as shown on a plat prepared by Paul Ramsing, RLS, dated August 11, 1982, recorded September 7, 1982, in Book HD at Page 337, having the following boundaries and measurements to wit: On the Northeast by property now or formerly of John Stewart, whereon it measures for a distance of 170.01 feet; on the East by the right of way of Road S-20-163, whereon it measures by its curve for a distance of 128.8 feet; on the Southwest by property now or formerly of John Stewart, whereon it measures for a distance of 170.0 feet; on the Southwest by property formerly of H. E. Douglas, Jr., now property of John D. Peay, whereon it measures for a distance of 180.0 feet; and on the Northwest by property now or formerly of H. E. Douglas, Jr., whereon it measures for a distance of 185.0 feet; be all measurements a little more or less as shown on said plat.

AND

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land, with improvements thereon, if any, located in Fairfield County, State of South Carolina, designated as 0.49 acre, as shown on a plat prepared for John Peay by Robert R. Brown, Jr., dated January 25, 2001, recorded April 20, 2001, in Book QW at Page 333, having the following boundaries and measurements to wit: On the North by a portion of the right of way of Flora Circle (66' R/V) (S-20-163), whereon it measures in a broken line for a total distance of 50.00 feet; on the Northeast by property now or formerly of John Peay, whereon it measures in a broken line for a total distance of 179.77 feet; on the Southeast by property now or formerly of Harold Douglas, Jr., whereon it measures for a distance of 169.92 feet; and on the West by property now or formerly of Harold Douglas, Jr., whereon it measures in a broken line for a total distance of 254.55 feet; be all measurements a little more or less as shown on said plat.

This being the same property conveyed to John Peay by deed of John C. Stewart & Company dated August 20, 1982 and recorded September 7, 1982 in Book HD at Page 338 and by deed of Harold E. Douglas, Jr., dated January 18, 2001 and recorded January 18, 2001, in Book QS at Page 298; both deeds recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Court/Register of Deeds for Fairfield County.

TMS No. 146-01-04-002-000

PLACE YOUR AD IN MORE THAN 80 SC NEWSPAPERS

Reach up to 1.5 million readers using our small space ad network!

SCNNI
 SOUTH CAROLINA
 NEWSPAPER NETWORK

Contact Randall Savelly
 803.750.9561 | scnnonline.com

Statewide and regional options available

Legals

Property address: 440 Flora Circle, Winnsboro, SC 29180

The Court in its Decree has further made its finding that this mortgage was intended to and specifically secures and collateralizes that certain Mobile Home permanently affixed to the above described real estate in the mortgage being foreclosed and is further provided under the laws of the State of South Carolina, the same being more particularly described as follows:

2001 Horton H8912 Manufactured Home, Serial No. H89124GLR, with any fixtures.

TERMS OF SALE: The successful bidder, other than the Plaintiff, will deposit with the Special Referee, at conclusion of the bidding, five percent (5%) of said bid is due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding, in certified funds or equivalent, as evidence of good faith, same to be applied to purchase price in case of compliance, but to be forfeited and applied first to costs and then to Plaintiff's debt in the case of non-compliance. In the event of a third party bidder and that any third party bidder fails to deliver the required deposit in certified (immediately collectible) funds with the Office of the Special Referee, said deposit being due and payable immediately upon closing of the bidding on the day of sale, the Special Referee will re-sell the subject property at the most convenient time thereafter (including the day of sale) upon notification to counsel for Plaintiff. Should the last and highest bidder fail or refuse to comply with the balance due of the bid within 30 days, then the Special Referee may re-sell the property on the same terms and conditions on some subsequent Sales Day (at the risk of the said highest bidder).

No personal or deficiency judgment being demanded, the bidding will not remain open after the date of sale, but compliance with the bid may be made immediately.

Purchaser to pay for documentary stamps on Special Referee's Deed. The successful bidder will be required to pay interest on the balance of the bid from the date of sale to date of compliance with the bid at the rate of 7.875% per annum. The Plaintiff may waive any of its rights, including its right to a deficiency judgment, prior to sale.

The sale shall be subject to taxes and assessments, existing easements and restrictions of record.

This sale is subject to all title matters of record and any interested party should consider performing an independent title examination of the subject property as no warranty is given.

The sale will not be held unless either Plaintiff's attorney or Plaintiff's bidding agent is present at the sale and either Plaintiff's attorney or Plaintiff's bidding agent enters the authorized bid of Plaintiff for this captioned matter. In the alternative, Plaintiff's counsel, if permitted by the Court, may advise this Court directly of its authorized bidding instructions. In the event a sale is inadvertently held without Plaintiff's Counsel or Counsel's bidding agent entering the authorized bid of Plaintiff for this specifically captioned matter, the sale shall be null and void and the property shall be re-advertised for sale on the next available sale date.

Neither the Plaintiff nor its counsel make representations as to the integrity of the title or the fair market value of the property offered for sale. Prior to bidding you may wish to review the current state law or seek the advice of any attorney licensed in South Carolina.

Milton E. Hamilton
 Special Referee for Fairfield County
 Scott and Corley, P.A.
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 03/19/26, 03/26/26, 04/02/26

IN THE PROBATE COURT

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES
 All persons having claims against the following estates are required to deliver or mail their claims to the indicated Personal Representatives (PR), appointed to administer these estates, AND to file their claims on Form #371 PC, with the Probate Court for FAIRFIELD COUNTY at P. O. BOX 385 WINNSBORO, SC 29180 on or before the date that is 8 months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors, or such persons shall be forever barred as to their Claims.
 All claims are required to be presented in written statements, indicating the name and address of claimant, basis of the claim, amount claimed, date when the Claim will become due, nature of any uncertainty as to the amount claimed and date when due, and description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: ROOSEVELT THED PEOPLES
 Case Number: 2025ES2000202
 Personal Representative: EDITH Y. PEOPLES
 Address: 184 ROME DR.
 WINNSBORO, SC 29180
 Attorney: CREIGHTON B. COLEMAN
 Address: P.O. BOX 1006
 WINNSBORO, SC 29180
 Date of Death: 05/28/2025
 03/05/26, 03/12/26, 03/19/26

Estate: SARAH IRENE SHERROD
 Case Number: 2026ES2000041
 Personal Representative: MICHELLE WINDHAM
 Address: 4910 US HWY 321 S
 WINNSBORO, SC 29180
 Date of Death: 02/12/2026
 03/05/26, 03/12/26, 03/19/26

Estate: SARAH IRENE SHERROD
 Case Number: 2026ES2000041
 Personal Representative: MICHELLE WINDHAM
 Address: 4910 US HWY 321 S
 WINNSBORO, SC 29180
 Date of Death: 02/12/2026
 03/05/26, 03/12/26, 03/19/26

Estate: GLENDA HACKLE BANKHEAD
 Case Number: 2026ES2000029
 Personal Representative: MICHAEL LEE BANKHEAD
 Address: 6073 WATEREE RD.
 GREAT FALLS, SC 29055
 Date of Death: 01/12/2026
 03/12/26, 03/19/26, 03/26/26

Estate: BRIDGET GOODWIN
 Case Number: 2026ES2000046

Legals

Personal Representative: SAMMIE GOODWIN
 Address: 735 INDIAN TRAIL RD.
 BLAIR, SC 29015
 Date of Death: 02/02/2026
 03/12/26, 03/19/26, 03/26/26

Estate: WILLIAM ERNEST BLACK
 Case Number: 2026ES2000055
 Personal Representative: GAIL C. BLACK
 Address: 110 FRANCIS MARION DRIVE
 WINNSBORO, SC 29016
 Date of Death: 01/16/2026
 03/19/26, 03/26/26, 04/02/26

Estate: HENRY DERON DORSEY
 Case Number: 2026ES2000055
 Personal Representative: CAROLINE DORSEY
 Address: 5 BEN DORSEY LANE APT 2
 WINNSBORO, SC 29016
 Date of Death: 12/23/2026
 03/19/26, 03/26/26, 04/02/26

Estate: TERRY J. SEIBLES
 Case Number: 2026ES2000052
 Personal Representative: EDNA M. SEIBLES
 Address: 1216 LITTLE CREEK RD.
 WINNSBORO, SC 29016
 Date of Death: 12/23/2026
 03/19/26, 03/26/26, 04/02/26

Misc. for Sale

Audien Hearing. The world's first hearing aid with touchscreen controls. No tiny buttons, apps or prescriptions. 45-day risk free trial. Free shipping. Lifetime support. More than 1.5 million happy customers. Call Audien 1-855-620-9614.

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-775-0366 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move

TV & Internet

DIRECTV OVER INTERNET – Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-237-9741

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-844-624-1107

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-542-0759

Vacation Rental

ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE to more than 1.5 million S.C. newspaper readers. Your 25-word classified ad will appear in 80 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Call Randall Savelly at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 803-750-9561.




NOW HIRING

ROUTE DRIVER

Competitive Salary & Benefits

Please email your resume to:
 ValleyBeverageManager@valleyspringh2o.com

or visit 500 Tillessen Blvd.,
 Ridgeway, SC 29130
 803-754-2826



KITCHEN & BATH Ceramic TILE

INSTALLATION & REPAIR

COMPLETE BATH RENOVATIONS

RICHARD ALBRITON
 31 YEARS EXPERIENCE
803-513-4241
 RICHARDALBRITON@GMAIL.COM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Town Ordinance No 128 Chapter 96.03 the Town of Winnsboro has declared the property of 115 N. Congress St. Winnsboro, SC a Public Nuisance. This being the same property designated on Fairfield County SC tax map # 126-01-33-025-000.

The owner/owners are hereby notified to abate this nuisance or provide a viable, acceptable plan with a specific timeline before March 18, 2026 to Code Enforcement 207 N. Congress St. Winnsboro, SC

FAIRFIELD SENIOR VILLAGE

156 US Hwy Bypass 321 N, Winnsboro, SC 29180
803-832-2223

Applications accepted at the site office
 Tuesday & Thursday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

"Housing for older persons requiring that all members of the household be age 18 or older with the tenant or co-tenant age 55 or older"

- Central heat / air
- Stove / refrigerator
- Carpet / blinds
- Laundry facility on site
- Washer / dryer connections
- Dishwasher in each unit
- Computer room
- Fitness room
- Garden area
- Picnic area with grill

Housing choice vouchers accepted.
"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Accessible units • Reasonable accommodations
 TTY Relay # for hearing impaired: 711



The Voice
 of Blythewood & Fairfield County

P.O. Box 1211, Winnsboro, SC 29180
 or P.O. Box 675, Blythewood, SC 29016

\$46 a year

(for zip codes 29016, 29180 & 29130)
 \$150 a year for all other areas **803-767-5711**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone(s): _____ Email Address: _____
 Bill my: _____ Visa _____ Master Card _____ Check Enclosed
 Name as it appears on card: _____
 Billing Address: _____
 Card Number: _____ CVV: _____ Exp. date: _____
 Signature: _____



A/C & HEATING

AIR CARE HEATING & AIR

Residential • New Installations • Repairs • 24-hr.
Free Estimates • 803-318-3622

AUTO SALES

WILSON CHEVROLET

New & Used Cars & Trucks • Parts & Service
798 Hwy 321 • 1-800-789-1304 • 635-4614 • Winnsboro

WILSON CHRYSLER, DODGE, JEEP

New & Used Cars & Trucks • Parts & Service
301 Congress St. • 1-800-551-1767 • 635-4923 • Winnsboro

BEAUTY/BARBER SALONS/SPAS

ROSA'S HAIR SALON

Walk-ins Welcome • Answering Machine 24/7
Men's Cuts \$14 • 803-337-8053 • Ridgeway

COMPUTER SERVICES

BLYTHEWOOD COMPUTERS, LLC

Installation • Repair • Optimization • Network Cabling
Home & Business • 803-530-8874

CONCRETE SERVICES

MEDUSA CONCRETE LLC

New Driveways, Patios, Sidewalks and Pool Decks
Wedoconcrete.net • 839-930-0388

DENTISTS

DR. PHILIP WILKINS & DR. REID WARREN

Invisalign • Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry
124 N. Congress St. • Winnsboro • 635-6162

FUNERAL HOMES

POPE FUNERAL HOME

Serving the Midlands since 1958
521 S. Congress St. • Winnsboro 803-635-2411

GARDEN CENTER

REESE'S PLANTS

Large selection Trees, Shrubs, Indoor Tropicals, Palms
reesesplants.com • 10418 Wilson Blvd. • 691-3035

CHICHESTER INS AGENCY/NATIONWIDE

Auto • Home • Life • Business
Keith Chichester • 305 Main St. • Blythewood • 786-2224

MEDICAL

FAIRFIELD MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

A Family & Pediatric Practice • 635-6461 • 754-8941
Winnsboro/Blythewood • www.fairfieldmedical.org

MORTGAGE LOANS

PREFERRED MORTGAGE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Home Purchase/Refinances • www.pmtfinancial.com
122 S. Congress St • Winnsboro • 803-635-9142

PAINTING

ROBERT BREWER PAINTING

Residential Washing & Repairs, 35 Years Experience
Free Estimates, Licensed & Insured • 803-917-7067

PHARMACIES

HAWTHORNE WINNSBORO PHARMACY

Locally Operated • Vaccines • Compounding • hawthornesc.com
110 S. Congress St • Winnsboro • 803-635-3565

PROPANE

PORTER GAS

Propane Provider • Appliance Installation and Service
803-635-6471 • 349 State Hwy 200 • Winnsboro

REAL ESTATE

HOME ADVANTAGE REALTY, LLC

Real Estate Sales • 212 Main Street, Blythewood
803-708-2013 • www.homeadvantagerealty.com

RESTAURANTS

GROUCHO'S DELI

Groucho's Famous® Big Dipper™ Formula 45 Sauce™
Since 1941 • 730 University Dr. • Blythewood • 754-4509

TAX PREPARATION

PREFERRED TAX SERVICE LLC

Individual & Business Taxes • www.pmtfinancial.com
122 S. Congress St • Winnsboro • 803-635-9142

Getting ready for Spring?

We have over 3,000 yards of room-size remnant rolls up to 12' x 30'



Karastan
Shaw
Mohawk & more

Binding on site!
Huge selection
of fabrics and colors



CARPET OUTLET, INC.

Kershaw County's Largest In-Stock Flooring Dealer • Serving Kershaw, Richland & Fairfield Counties
Monday - Friday 10 - 6 • Saturday 10 - 3 • Locally Owned & Operated
Ph 803-408-8707 • Fx 803-408-8708
 1123 Hwy 1 South in Lugoff • carpetoutletlugoffsc.com

Springtime brings Smiles!
Let us transform your smile to WOW!
691-4430
Dr. James Finkel, DMD

Call today for your appointment!

Blythewood Dentistry
Dr. James Finkel, DMD • 691-4430 • 205 Blythewood Rd

Personal Injury
Criminal Defense
Wrongful Death
Family Law
Probate
Estates
DUI

Jonathan M. Goode Jesse M. Goode

Goode Law Firm (803) 635-3946
Blythewood Office at 303 Main Street
Winnsboro Office at 400 S. Congress Street

The Voice

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

thevoicepaper thevoice_paper

blythewoodonline.com