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PROMOTING THE INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING OF GEORGIA'S NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

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# U.S. Post Office threatens future delivery of local newspaper

By JOHN STONE

MCCORMICK, S.C. — McCormick Postmaster Evelyn Case on Feb. 25 demanded the county’s local legal organ newspaper be removed from her loading dock, then threatened to have Publisher John Stone arrested for trespassing when he arrived to discuss the situation.

Stone called law enforcement to the scene to monitor the situation to which McCormick Police Chief Bo Willis responded. Stone declined to press charges against Case.

The incident is the latest in ongoing disputes over questionable activities and calls by the McCormick postmaster over mail service in the county, including the post office’s refusal to provide home delivery to new residents of the Savannah Lakes Village community.

**Decades of newspaper delivery ignored**

The McCormick Post Office has delivered the McCormick Messenger to all McCormick, Troy and Bradley residents for decades, with the former owners delivering the papers to the post office loading dock on Wednesday afternoons. The current Journal Messenger & Reporter has followed the same procedures since the papers were combined in 2022. The delivery goal for the papers has always remained to be in subscribers mailboxes by Thursday in all three counties.

Due to persistent complaints from subscribers over papers not arriving by Thursday or at all in McCormick, The Journal Messenger & Reporter moved printing up by a day to allow delivery to the post offices as early as Tuesday morning.

Under the new earlier schedule, McCormick papers were first delivered to the Augusta District Post Office on Tuesday afternoon, and in turn transferred to McCormick Wednesday morning. However, subscribers began receiving their papers a full week late, so the McCormick papers were then moved up for direct delivery again to the McCormick loading dock on Tuesday mornings.

Case eventually agreed to deliver the Feb. 27 papers but will no longer deliver papers to the Troy and Bradley post offices.

Brenda Harris, business mail entry manager for the Georgia District in Augusta, says that the McCormick Post Office will continue to deliver papers to McCormick, “until this issue is resolved.” The Journal Messenger & Reporter entered into an Exceptional Dispatch



Protestors expressed their rage on Feb. 9, 2023 in front of the McCormick Post Office over the end of mail services for Savannah Lakes Village.

Authorization, outlining delivery procedures in 2022, which the Augusta office reports they do not have “on file.”

As failure to deliver the McCormick newspaper also impacts the operations of all local government including county and town councils and court action, those governments have been included in these developments.

The South Carolina Press Association, of which The Journal Messenger & Reporter is a member, has also been notified including the association’s legal counsel, along with state and federal elected officials and the U.S. Post Office Inspector General.

## Lady Tigers to play Wilcox for state championship



Wilkes County hosted a sendoff for the region champions Lady Tiger Basketball team prior to the team’s trip to Milledgeville, Georgia, for the GHSA A Division II Girls basketball semifinal against Macon County. The game was held at the Georgia College and State University Centennial Center Coliseum in Milledgeville.

By REX EDMUNDS

WASHINGTON, Ga. — With their 66-55 victory over season-long No. 2 Macon County at Georgia College & State University last Friday, the Washington-Wilkes girls basketball team will

play for the state championship for the first time in school history. The team is 14-8 overall, with an 8-2 in Region play. They finished the regular season as the No. 1 seed in the region and then swept through the Region 8 tournament for the first women’s basketball championship of any kind in the history of Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School.

The team is incredibly young, with six freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and only one senior, so the future looks quite bright for this group of young upstarts. However, things didn’t look too promising early on this season, as the Lady Tigers started the year with six straight losses.

According to head

Coach Angel Heard, “We intentionally played teams with more experience than us early in the season so the girls could get a good feel of high school competition. We started slow, but when we hit region play later in the season, it is like the girls flipped a switch. All of the coaches grew more and more excited as the season went on... we expected a good season, but nothing quite like this since we are so young!”

The coach said the Lady Tigers had to face adversity all season, from sickness to untimely deaths.

“We’ve faced it head-on and been victorious. The players show up for each other day in and day out, and this is ultimately what has

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## Graves Mountain dig set for this weekend in Lincoln County

By ANGYE MORRISON

LINCOLNTON, Ga. — The Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig happens twice a year in Lincoln County — in April and in October. This year’s spring event is early, March 7-9. Graves Mountain will be open for prospectors and on-lookers from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Considered a “scientific and geological wonder,” Graves Mountain is a mecca for rock hounds. It is one of the most well-known collection sites in the state of Georgia, with an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 prospectors attending the events in previous years. People from all over the country enjoy the dig.

Graves Mountain has been named among “Five of the Best Places to go Gem Hunting in the U.S.” by smithsonian.com.

Treasure hunters make the trek up the mountain can find rutile, kyanite, lazulite, hematite, pyrophyllite, pyrite, ilmenite, fuchsite, barite, sulfur, blue quartz, quartz crystals and more.

“It’s amazing to see the stuff that comes off of the mountain,” said Clarence Norman Jr., Graves Mountain caretaker. “Anything that people find, they get to keep.”



Rowan Kalos enjoyed getting down and dirty at last year’s dig. The event is open to all ages. (Photo by Eve Luna)

If you go, be sure to take your own picks, hammers, chisels, buckets, gloves, sifters, shovels, pry bars and safety glasses. Wear boots with plenty of ankle support for climbing around rock piles. You can park your vehicle in a designated area, and walk up, or there will be transportation for those unable to make the trek.

It’s also important to remember that visitors must stop at the hospitality tent to sign a liability release, and children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Pets must be on a leash or kept under control.

There’s a concession stand available with hot dogs, chips, hamburgers and soft drinks. You can also purchase a Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Dig T-shirt.

There is no admission charge for the event, but a small donation is requested to defray the cost of opening the mountain to the public.



**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS RELEASES, ADVERTISING, LEGAL NOTICES, OBITUARTIES AND CLASSIFIED ADS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FOLLOWING WEEK’S PAPER IS THURSDAY, 3 P.M. BY PHONE AND 5 P.M. BY EMAIL.**