

# The Link remembers former writer

JOAN YATES  
Editor – The Link

Julia C. Aldridge of Pageland was a special lady, and "lady" defined her quite well. She was gracious and pleasant to everyone on every occasion. The Link family had the privilege of knowing Julia through her writing in the newspaper's early years.

Born in Cabarrus County, North Carolina, Julia was a former Cub Scout leader; a kindergarten assistant at Benton Heights Elementary



Julia C. Aldridge

School in Monroe, N.C.; a legal assistant to attorney and assistant solicitor W. Lee Youngblood of Pageland; and retired from Jeff-

erson-Pilot Communications (WBTV/WBT) and Jefferson-Pilot Sports of Charlotte, N.C.

Julia was a daughter of the Rev. Brady Lee Connell and Verla Price Connell. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Pageland and SECR. Julia had a strong belief in Christ and treated others with dignity and worth. She possessed a deep love of Christ, family, troubled youth and crisis intervention for those in need. Julia died Thursday, July 20.

## Delta Sigma Theta Sorority presents community service award

### Region Report

The EMBODI Group of the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. has announced the winners of the 2022-23 James Edward Clemons Jr. Community Service Award.

The award was established in honor of the late Sheriff James E. Clemons Jr. who served as a mentor for the Bennettsville-Cheraw Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's EMBODI Program for more than 15 years. EMBODI means Empowering Males to Build Op-

portunities for Developing Independence. As a mentor, he served in several capacities to foster growth in the male participants.

Candidates for this award were nominated by teachers, counselors, assistant principals and principals. The selection committee chose two candidates based on grades, extracurricular activities, involvement with church and their commitment to community service. These were ideals and attributes Sheriff Clemons shared with the young men in the mentoring program. Each candidate was interviewed by the selection

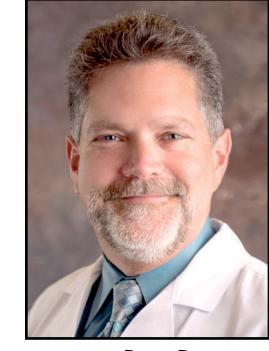
committee, which consisted of the following chapter members; President Lynn Cassidy Henry, Committee Chair Dannie Blair, and chapter members Vivian Patrick and Callie Ellerbe.

The recipient from South Carolina is Jesiah Baldwin, a senior at Marlboro County High School. The recipient from North Carolina is William Owen Hancock, a ninth-grade student at Richmond Early College High School. Recipients received an award and monetary gift from Brandon Blair, CEO of Cicero Holdings LCC. This award will be given annually.



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## Genealogists look at Davis family

### Region Report

The Chesterfield District Chapter, S.C.G.S., will meet at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, in the back conference room of the Chesterfield

Public Library, located at 119 W. Main St. in Chesterfield. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.

Genealogist Charles Purvis has his own blog, Car-

olina Family Roots. He has also published several books on Rivers and Davis families. He will have a PowerPoint presentation on the Davis family. The meeting is open to the public.

## Walker celebrates 100th birthday

### Region Report

Drusilla Walker will celebrate her 100th birthday in a few days. Born on Aug. 7, 1923, in Kyabram, Australia, "Druie" met and married her husband, Ken Walker, while he was stationed in Melbourne, Australia, during World War II. At the end of the war, she came to the United States.

Rearing four children, she

and Ken travelled internationally and eventually retired to his hometown in North Carolina. At his death in 1996, Druie moved to Cheraw, which she now considers her home. Her four siblings have died, but she celebrates this birthday with children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and the many nieces and nephews and their children who still reside in Australia.

## Volunteers needed to help local abused, neglected children

### Region Report

Cass Elias McCarter Guardian ad Litem Program, a division of the South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy, is offering free virtual training beginning Monday, Aug. 21, to those interested in becoming a volunteer Guardian ad Litem in Chesterfield County. GALs advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children who are involved in family court legal proceedings through the Department of Social Services.

Volunteers should be at least 21 years old, have a clean criminal record, no previous DSS case history,

have time available and the desire to help a child in their community.

Currently, the Chesterfield County GAL Program is serving 25 children, but there are only eight volunteer GALs to assist. While GAL staff fill in the gaps, the need for more volunteers is urgent.

"The need is greater than ever in our state for volunteer advocates. Our goal is to ensure that every child in the family court system has a voice and finds a safe permanent home as quickly as possible. We are always looking for caring and dedicated individuals to advocate on behalf of our state's most

vulnerable children," said LaDara Depugh, director of the South Carolina GAL program.

More information is available from Erin Petrella, regional recruiter and trainer for the GAL program, by calling (864) 381-3725.



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