

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

Holiday Closing
The Link office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4 for the holiday. For breaking news, call our news hotline 843-910-1281 or email thelinknewsdesk@gmail.com or thelinkpublisher@gmail.com. We hope you and your family have a safe and happy July 4th.

www.thelinkpaper.com

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

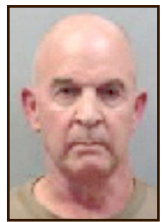
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The Link reporter arrested for taping note on town hall

JOAN YATES
Editor – The Link

A reporter for The Link spent a night in jail last week after being charged with a misdemeanor offense for allegedly doing \$1 worth of vandalism to McBee Town Hall.

"I think this is a classic example of government officials with thin skin not understanding citizens' rights to comment on governmental actions and petition or redress grievances," said retired law professor Jay Bender, who also serves as an attorney for the S.C. Press



Monnie

Association and S.C. Broadcasters Association. "In other words, arresting this reporter for putting up a note with a piece of tape is unconstitutional."

Seventy-year-old Robert Brian Monnie was charged with vandalism after taping a note to a glass window at McBee Town Hall directed at McBee Town Council member Robbie Liles. The note, which was initially placed on the building using packaging tape, reportedly read, "Bye, Bye Robbie," according to a McBee Police Department report. Liles is officially listed as the complainant on the McBee PD report, with the town hall building identified as the victim.

The note reportedly had fallen from the window when

it was discovered by McBee Police Chief Michael Irvin, who contacted Liles about the discovery, followed by asking Deputy Solicitor Kernard Redman what criminal charges the posting should warrant.

The incident occurred around five days after Liles posted a message June 13 on his personal Facebook page criticizing an opinion piece written by Monnie in the June 7 issue of The Link. In the opinion piece, which was submitted by the newspaper's weekly deadline of Friday, June 2, Monnie questioned the logistics of a proposed donation to Northeastern Technical College that would provide a satellite campus in

Arrest, Pg. 3A



Jane Crawford/Assistant Editor

Soggy ground and threatening skies couldn't dampen the spirits of the Purple Crusaders as they walked to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's awareness and research.

Purple Crusaders walk for Alzheimer's awareness

JANE CRAWFORD
Assistant Editor – The Link

The Purple Crusaders have spent June painting the county purple in honor of Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Last week the group held its third annual walk for "The Longest Day" at Arrowhead Park in Cheraw.

June 21 marks the summer solstice, the day in the year with the most hours of light, and is also known as the longest day in national recognition of the Alzheimer's Association – a day where people across the world come together through the fundraising activity of their choice to join in the collective fight to end the darkness of Alzheimer's.

For the last three years the



Jane Crawford/Assistant Editor

Chip Ingram always wears Teresa "Sweet T" Ingram's walking shoes for the Purple Crusaders' walk on the longest day.

Awareness, Pg. 3A

Patrick named a 2022 Tree City

JOAN YATES
Editor – The Link

The town of Patrick has been named a 2022 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Towns and cities receive Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, dedicating

an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and hosting an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Patrick plants a tree every fall in memory of residents who have died the previous year. The ceremony usually takes place in Leander McLain Playground, next to the Patrick Depot.

"Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand," said Dan Lambe, chief execu-

tive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees being planted and cared for by Patrick are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement of public education."

More information on the program is available at arbor-day.org/TreeCityUSA.



Photo furnished by Pageland Watermelon Pageant

CHESCO winners are all smiles

Pictured from left are Charletta McBride, who won Best Hair in the Pageland Watermelon Pageant; Hermine Bethea, who won Best Smile; Barbara Nicholson, who won Best Personality; and Natalie Courtney, who won Miss Chesco Watermelon.

Watermelon pageant a huge success

JOAN YATES
Editor – The Link



Contributed

Jzurnee Myers was crowned Miss Watermelon last Saturday. Myers is a graduate of Central High School and a student at Columbia College. She is studying English and political science.

The 2023 Pageland Watermelon Pageant was held last Saturday and resulted in a houseful of winners.

Taking the title of Wee Baby Miss Watermelon was Dakota Locklear.

Baby Miss Watermelon and Baby Mr. Watermelon were Cassie Meadows and Waylon McManus.

Toddler Miss Watermelon and Toddler Mr. Watermelon were Everly Dean and Maverick Glance.

Tot Miss Watermelon and Tot Mr. Watermelon were Haven Grace Sutton and Charlie Dean.

Tiny Miss Watermelon was

Sofia Grace Martinez, while Petite Miss Watermelon was Emillee Allison.

Little Miss Watermelon was Olivia Rink, and Miss CHESCO Watermelon was Natalie Courtney.

Junior Miss Watermelon was Mallory Helms.

Teen Miss Watermelon and Teen Mr. Watermelon were Brooklyn Short and Kaiden Johnson.

Ms. Watermelon was Kaitlyn Nicholson.

Miss Watermelon was Jzurnee Myers.

Miss CHESCO titles went to Best Smile, Hermine Bethea; Best Personality, Barbara Nicholson; Best Hair, Charletta McBride; and Miss CHESCO Watermelon, Natalie Courtney.

Rodeo queen speaks at Chesterfield Service Club



Jane Pigg/Publisher

Chesterfield Service Club president Mike Caskey, left, and past president Davis Yarborough experience Emory Rollins' roping skills when she visited the club last week. They were thankful she chose not to hog-tie them afterwards. A recent transplant from Weddington, N.C., Emory has been competing on the North Carolina rodeo circuit.



Joan Yates/Editor

Rodeo queen Emory Rollins, wearing the hat, speaks to the Chesterfield Service Club about her accomplishments. With Emory are her mother, Michelle Rollins and older sister Madyson, along with belt buckles, a belt and other awards she's won for her prowess in the ring. Not pictured are her father, Daniel Rollins, and older sister Kristin.

Planning committee looks at keeping people in county

JOAN YATES
Editor – The Link

The Chesterfield County Joint Planning Committee during its June 22 meeting at McBee Town Hall elected John Martin (McBee) and

Billy Cassidy (Chesterfield) to serve as secretary and vice chairman, respectively, of the committee.

The committee agreed to rotate the meetings among the members in the county and for the host to select the location of its meeting. The

regular meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month. The July meeting will be in Cheraw in the town council chamber.

Joseph Lewis with the Pee

Committee, Pg. 3A

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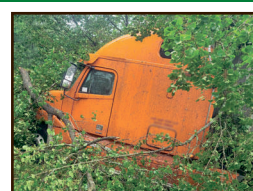
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Photo furnished by High Point FD

Emergency personnel in the Pageland area responded to three situations in rapid succession June 20, an overturned car, a wrecked tractor-trailer and a fire related to a tractor-trailer.

Emergency personnel keep busy

JOAN YATES
Editor – The Link

Emergency personnel on the western side of Chesterfield County had a busy day June 20 as the rain and overcast skies created dangerous driving conditions.

High Point Fire Department, Pageland Rescue Squad and Lifeguard EMS responded to an overturned vehicle crash on Stadium Road near Evans Mill Road

about 11:12 a.m.

Responders arrive to find a car had left the roadway and overturned. No one was in the vehicle, and no one was injured in the crash.

Two hours later, at 1:14 p.m., those same agencies were dispatched to a tractor-trailer crash at the intersection of Highway 9 and Mills Road.

Responders arrived to find a tractor-trailer left the highway, traveled through a yard and then struck a tree. While

no one was injured in the crash, High Point firefighters remained on scene to provide traffic control until recovery operations finished.

While working at the tractor-trailer crash, firefighters observed another tractor-trailer traveling through the scene with a burning tire, which had ignited the load of mulch in the trailer. Firefighters deployed a hose line to extinguish the burning tire, then climbed into the

back of the truck to extinguish the burning mulch.

Chesterfield FD was also busy, setting up a couple of landings zones for EMS helicopters and a wreck but “nothing too serious,” said Fire Chief Michael While.

Patrick responders likewise had to set up a landing zone, as well as respond to a wreck at Tony Mill Road on Wednesday and another wreck Thursday in downtown Patrick.

AWARENESS

Continued from Front

Purple Crusaders of Chesterfield County have participated in the cause by hosting their annual fundraiser walk to bring awareness and advocate an end to Alzheimer’s.

The organization’s founder, Chip Ingram, started the event on behalf of his late wife Teresa “Sweet T” Ingram, who was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s disease in 2011 at the age of 55 and fought courageously against the aggressive disease until her

death in 2018.

The Purple Crusaders’ organization and annual fundraiser walk have grown every year, showing a successful turnout last week. Although the end of Alzheimer’s Awareness month may be approaching, Ingram and his fellow Purple Crusaders won’t let up in their fight to end Alzheimer’s.

“What was first a vision is now a mission,” said Ingram. “We are turning tragedy into triumph.”

ARREST

Continued from Front

McBee. Monnie’s op-ed encouraged the “powers that be” to create a safe walking route to the building, as well as fully equip the facility.

Liles’ social media post accused Monnie of having a negative slant in his write-up, as well as pointed out representatives from the town of McBee, NETC and the S.C. Department of Transportation had met June 5, three days after Monnie’s article submis-

sion and two days before the column’s print, to discuss the same concerns raised in Monnie’s column.

Monnie’s arrest was one of the first apprehensions recorded by the town of McBee’s recently re-established police department.

Attorneys representing Monnie said they will be requesting a jury trial to shine light on how the decision to incarcerate Monnie was made.

COMMITTEE

Continued from Front

Dee Council of Governments conducted the meeting and urged all town representatives to contact their councils as soon as possible to obtain current zoning maps/land use maps and construct new land use maps

for adoption next year.

Lewis also urged the members to obtain from councils charts and graphs of priority investment so the planning committee will know where and how councils want to spend money, how the

county might change and how it might need to change.

The committee also discussed zoning in general, as well as mixed-use zoning and land use in particular.

Lewis stressed all the goals and objectives of the

committee relate to land use and priority investment.

The committee set population retention as its initial goal, that is, identifying what can be done to keep people in Chesterfield County.

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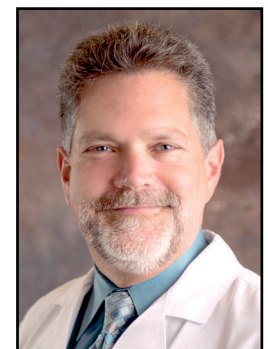
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