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DAILY \$2

Edwards aims to balance pastoral duties with role on City Council

By RENEE ORTIZ
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Annette Edwards was sworn in as the newest Greenwood City Council member in December. This year, she and her other council members will work to improve Ward 3 and the rest of the city.

Edwards' road to city government began in 2018, but her story starts in 1961. Edwards was born in Greenwood and grew up on Woodlawn Road with her six sisters and four brothers, along with her mother and father.



ANNETTE EDWARDS

Her mom, Lillie Ruth, worked at Greenwood textiles, and her father, Joe Jones, worked at Monsanto. Edwards recounted the many Christmas parties at the company and spending every summer with her grandparents.

"We had a great life, not a poor one," she said. "We had a good life. All of us went to school, got our education."

Her first elementary school was Lakeview. The school had been desegregated by the time she arrived.

"When I went to Emerald High, it was integrated as well, and then Greenwood High, so I never went to an all-black school," Edwards said.

In April 1998, Edwards said she accepted God as her savior. Little did she know, she would be soon called to action.

"It was a calling on my life," she said. "I didn't want to preach. I heard God speaking to me, leading me."

Her mentors, the Revs. Dora Ann White and Cesar Richburg, told her to be obedient to the calling. In

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Annette Edwards was joined by her mother, Lillie, her son, T.J., and dozens of community members for her swearing-in at December's Greenwood City Council meeting.

Little kid, big heart



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

This past Christmas, Christian Edwards donated hats and gloves to the elderly and children at Elite Home Care and Day Care Centers.

Young boy works to give back to Greenwood community

By RENEE ORTIZ
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Finding time to help others can be a rare find in today's world. But one child is working to bring some light and love to all he comes across.

Christian Edwards, 6, is known for his smile and energetic attitude. His great-grandmother, Linda Boyd-Edwards, or Nana, says he has a big heart for one so young.

"It's like he's been here before. He's an old soul," Boyd-Edwards said.

Boyd-Edwards works in private home health for the elderly. She took Christian along with her while she worked. It was there where



Christian Edwards began volunteering at the soup kitchen when he was 3 years old. Now, he returns multiple times a year to assist.

Christian began to learn the importance of helping others.

"He's my sidekick, like Batman and Robin," Boyd-Edwards said.

"We're together most of the time when I'm not working."

Christian has hobbies like every 6-year-old. He loves reading, riding his bike and asking lots of questions. He spends most of his time, though, volunteering throughout the community.

Since he was 3, Christian has volunteered at the Soup Kitchen, shelters, community spaces and at his church. His goal? To help as many people as he can.

"Giving makes people happy," Christian said. "I just want to help people feel good."

He began to gather donations and funds to distribute. When Boyd-Edwards noticed Christian's

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Two-week Greenwood Eats event spotlights restaurants' offerings

By RENEE ORTIZ
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The days following Christmas and New Year's Day can be some of the slowest for Greenwood restaurants and eateries.

The Greenwood Chamber of Commerce wants to bring foot traffic to these restaurants with a new event this month. Running Monday through Jan. 19, restaurants across Greenwood will participate in the first Greenwood Eats event.

"As a chamber, we serve so many different businesses, whether it's the restaurants, retail and the manufacturers," chamber CEO Trentsie Williams said. "So, we're trying to get events that really tailor to those niche markets

Greenwood Eats participants

Break on the Lake
Eggs Up Grill
Finz & Feathers
Good Times Brewing
Hardee's
Inn on the Square
Scoops 'N Cups Café

Scooters Coffee
Shipley Donuts
Smokey Gray's BBQ
Smoothie King
Sports Break
The Mill House

that we don't normally get to highlight on a regular basis."

Williams said the hope is to highlight various eateries, including those not traditionally considered restaurants, and encourage community engagement through social media.

There are 13 restaurants, food trucks, beverage places and dessert places participating

in the event:

Participating businesses were asked to offer special menu items or discounts.

Gianpaolo "Geep" Bonaca, owner of Good Times Brewing and The Mill House, has been a business owner for close to 30 years. He's exited about this about this first-of-its-kind event here in Greenwood.

"January is a pretty down month," Bonaca said. "You're trying to kind of coincide with that and get people back out after the holidays and consuming and checking out the local establishments."

There are two featured menu items at The Mill House. The Brick James pizza comes

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Greenwood SC Chamber of Commerce
January 6th - 19th
GREENWOOD EATS
LIMITED TIME DISCOUNTS & MENU ITEMS
With Random Giveaways All Weeks & Grand Prize Drawing on January 20th
Watch for specials from these PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:
Break on the Lake
Eggs Up Grill
Finz & Feathers
Good Times Brewing
Hardee's
Inn on the Square
Scoops 'N Cups Café
Scooters Coffee
Shipley Donuts
Smokey Gray's BBQ
Smoothie King
Sports Break
The Mill House
ENTER TO WIN:
Share a picture of YOUR meal, drink, or dessert from a participating restaurant and tag #geats.

The first Greenwood Eats event will go from Monday through Jan. 19. Thirteen eateries are participating in the event.

SUBMITTED

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Alma Holden

NINETY SIX — Alma Earle Land Holden, 82, of Ninety Six, widow of Samuel Charles Holden, Sr., died Thursday, January 2, 2025 at Self Regional Medical Center.

Born in Fort Bragg, NC, she was a daughter of the late Emanuel Edward and Alma Vaelean Williams Land. Alma's enduring spirit and creativity radiated through her countless contributions to her family and community, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those who knew her.



ALMA HOLDEN

Alma was a champion of local heritage, playing an instrumental role in the preservation of the historic depot in Ninety Six and passionately advocating against the relocation of the cabin at Star Fort. Her dedication to her community was only overshadowed by her immense talent and love for crafting. A celebrated artisan, Alma won numerous awards for her exquisite crafts, including cross-stitching, quilting, crochet, and cake decorating. Her wedding cakes were the centerpiece of many joyful celebrations. Alma's artistic flair extended beyond traditional mediums, as she painted delightful scenes on any surface she could find.

Her giving nature transcended her artistry. She lovingly crocheted over 500 prayer afghans, which she gifted to enrich the lives of others through her cherished ministry. Alma's ability to transform simple materials into heartfelt creations touched many lives and served as a testament to her belief in the power of love and community.

Alma was a faithful member of Siloam Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School.

Alma is survived by her daughter, Terri Holden Brooks; her daughter-in-law, Teresa Holden; her granddaughters, Carolyne Brooks, Jayde Winn (Fletcher) and Jessica Teresa Holden; great grandchildren, Samuel Harter, Waylon Winn and WylieAnn Winn; her sisters, Janice Griffin and Robin Cobb (Paul), numerous nieces and nephews and her beloved, Kitty Kitty.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her son, Samuel Charles Holden, Jr. and brother-in-law, Melvin Griffin.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on Monday at Siloam Baptist Church with the Revs. Phillip Howle and Greg Spearman officiating. The family would like for anyone attending the service who received an afghan from Alma to please bring it to drape over the back of your pew.

Honorary escort will be Fletcher Winn, Paul Cobb, Bryan Hope, Emanuel Cobb, Land Cobb, Allen Armstrong, Dr. Mary Margaret Turner and the staff of Ninety Six Family Healthcare.

The family will receive friends before the service from 3:00-4:00 P.M. at the church in the Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Siloam Baptist Church, PO Box 373, Ninety Six, SC 29666 or to the Faith Home, PO Box 39, Greenwood, SC 29648.

Harley Funeral Home and Crematory (www.harleyfuneral-home.com) is in charge of arrangements.

Audrey Marie Ross

DONALDS — Audrey Marie Ross, 29, of Donalds, SC died Tuesday, December 31, 2024, in Greenville. She was born in Abbeville, SC to Jeanette Davis Ross Bourlet and the late Don N. Ross.

A graduate of Paul Mitchell The School — Cosmetology School in Greenville, SC, Audrey was employed as a stylist at Ceres Salon in Greenville. She enjoyed vending with her partner, Joshua, at Renaissance Arts and Craft fairs. Audrey was passionate about photography, animals, and spending time in nature, forging and identifying wild plants.

On the evening of December 31, Audrey and her friends, Joshua Ward, Jade Bruton and Zelena Moon lost their lives in a tragic automobile accident. They will be forever remembered by their numerous friends and family.

Audrey is survived by her mother Jeanette Ross Bourlet (Perry) of Tallulah Falls, GA; maternal grandmothers, Mary Austin of Greenville, SC and June Davis of Manning, SC; four brothers, Andrew Ross, Paul Bourlet, Grey Bourlet and Joel Bourlet; and her special friend and partner for many years, Joshua Niemeyer of Donalds, SC.

Funeral services will be 1:00PM, Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at Abbeville First Baptist Church Christian Life Center, 111 Ellis Ave., Abbeville, SC 29620. Burial will be in Long Cane Cemetery. A reception to greet and share memories of Audrey will follow the graveside at Sharon Manor, 12 Firehouse Road, Abbeville, SC 29620.

Memorial contributions, in memory of Audrey, may be sent to Humane Society of Abbeville, PO Box 256, Abbeville, SC 29620.

A message of condolence may be sent to the family by visiting www.harrisfuneral.com.

Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Abbeville is assisting the Ross family.

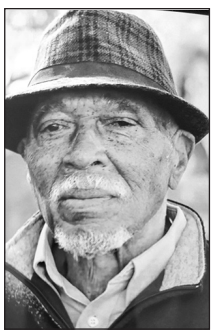
Larry Thomas Johnson

Larry Thomas "Chest" Johnson, 68, of 304 North Hospital Street, entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at Self Regional Healthcare. The family is at the home and services will be announced by Robinson and Son Mortuary, Inc.

Kirk Alexander

Albert Kirk Alexander, 82, resident of Forest Hills, widower of Judy Welborn Alexander, passed away Friday, January 3rd, 2025, at Self Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements will be announced by Blyth Funeral Home & Cremation Services.



CHARLES FOGGIE

Charles Foggie

Charles D. Foggie, 87, passed away January 2, 2025 at Hospice of Laurens County.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Laurel Hill Baptist Church, 101 Riverfork Road Waterloo, SC with Reverend Linda Cunningham officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Public viewing will be held at the funeral home Wednesday starting at 12 Noon until 6:00 PM.

Percival-Tompkins Funeral Home is assisting the Foggie family.

Michael Williams

Michael Williams, 66, husband of Annie Faye Williams, of 102 Golbys Nob, entered into eternal rest on Friday, January 3, 2025, at Self Regional Healthcare. The family is at the home, and services will be announced by Robinson and Son Mortuary, Inc.

GREENWOOD COUNTY

- Kirk Alexander, Greenwood.
- Travis K. Blair, Greenwood.
- Ruth Hayes Hodges, Greenwood.
- Alma Holden, Ninety Six.
- Larry Thomas Johnson, Greenwood.
- Michael Williams, Greenwood.
- Charles Foggie, Greenwood.

ABBEVILLE COUNTY

- George Devlin, Ninety Six.
- Audrey Marie Ross, Donalds.

OBITUARY GUIDELINES

• Obituary submissions are submitted online at memoriams.com through an approved funeral home. In the event you are not using a funeral home or our offices are closed, you may submit your obituary through legacy.memoriams.com. Obituary and Death announcement submissions may not contain digital links to external websites or any reference thereof. Flag emblems are included for free, upon request, for all veteran obituaries. Additional emblems are available for a nominal charge. Up to two photos can be included with paid obituaries only for a per-photo fee. Death announcements are available at memoriams.com. They are limited to 50 words and can only contain name, age and address of deceased, wife/husband or widow/widower of, date of death, place of death, home where family members are gathered and funeral home in charge of arrangements. The obituary base fee is \$65, plus \$.85 per word. Submission deadline for placement in the next day's edition is 2:45 p.m. daily, including weekends. Deadlines are subject to change based on holidays and special circumstances, such as inclement weather. Submitted notices from funeral homes are deemed accurate for ad placement and should be thoroughly reviewed prior to final submission, including pricing considerations. The Index-Journal is not responsible for inaccuracies after final copy submission. Please contact the obituary desk at 864-223-1811 or obituaries@indexjournal.com for questions.

Ruth Hayes Hodges

Ruth Hayes Hodges, 91, formerly of Shamrock Drive, died Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at Ashley Square.

Born on July 26, 1933, in Ware Shoals, SC, she was a daughter of the late John Edward Hayes and Ilar Eugene Smith Hayes. Growing up, she was a member of the First Baptist Church in Ware Shoals. Ruth was also in the Girl Scouts and was a member of the GA's at the church. She graduated from Ware Shoals High School and from Lander College with an Associate of Arts degree in Secretarial Science. She retired from Lander College in 1999. Prior to working at Lander, she was employed with the Greenwood County Clerk of Court's office as Deputy Clerk for a number of years.



RUTH HAYES HODGES

Ruth enjoyed traveling, reading, and babysitting her grandchildren. She also was a former member of the Hodges Order of The Eastern Star Chapter #272. She was a former member of the Emerald Chapter of the Professional Secretaries International (PSI) in Greenwood, where she served as President in 1986 and was named "Secretary of the Year" in April 1986. Ruth became a member of Hyde Park Baptist Church in 1995 and held various positions there. Ruth was married to the late John Willis Hodges.

Survivors include a daughter, Debrah Hodges (Glenn) Miller; a son, Willis Keith (Becky) Hodges; three grandchildren, Christopher John (Ginger) Miller, Amy Miller (Craig) Williams, and Elizabeth Miller Hinson and six great-grandchildren.

Ruth was predeceased by a son, George Stevenson Hodges; four sisters, Frances McGaha, Cora Hannah, Kathryn Whatley, Lois Wood; and four brothers, Edward, Andrew, Clyde, and Frank Hayes.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. at Parker-White Funeral Home Chapel in Ware Shoals on Friday, with Dr. Christopher Leonard officiating.

The family is at their respective homes and received friends from 1-2 p.m. Friday at Parker-White Funeral Home prior to the service. Private burial will be at Greenwood Memorial Gardens at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials should be made to Ashley Square Assisted Living, Caris Hospice, Rock Presbyterian Church, all of Greenwood, or Greenville Presbyterian Church of Donalds. Message of condolences may be left online at www.ParkerWhitePruitt.com.

George Devlin

ABBEVILLE — George Devlin, 92, of 601 Washington Street, Abbeville, SC, died on Friday, January 3, 2025 at Self Regional Healthcare, Greenwood, SC. The family is at the home, and the home of his granddaughter, Rasheka Tucker, 304 Miller Street, Abbeville, SC. Services are entrusted to Richie Funeral Home, Inc.

Travis K. Blair

Travis K. Blair (44) was born on April 12, 1980, in Greenwood, SC. He transitioned from labor to reward on Friday, December 31, 2024. Bostick-Tompkins Funeral Home located at 6300 Highway 28 South, McCormick, SC is in charge of the funeral arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY TOWN OF WARE SHOALS CALLED WATER/SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING

WHEN: 5:15 p.m.
WHERE: Town Hall
AGENDA: 1. Call to order. 2. Discuss the duties and responsibilities of the Town of Ware Shoals and L&L Environmental within the water/sewer department. 3. Create a timeline for completing the required financial information within the water/sewer department. 4. Discuss the date the delinquency fee will be added to utility bills. 5. Adjournment.

MCCORMICK COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING /EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: Administration Center (610 S. Mine St.)
AGENDA: Decision Items: 1. Ordinance 24-07: An ordinance approving and authorizing the lease of county property with option to purchase containing 11.19 acres, more or less, identified by McCormick County Tax Map 155-00-00-051 to Project Faser. Council to consider 1st reading. Executive session.

TUESDAY GREENWOOD COUNTY COUNCIL

WHEN: 4 p.m. (executive session); 5:30 p.m.

(regular meeting)

WHERE: Greenwood County Library
AGENDA: 4 p.m. executive session. Swearing in of newly elected county council members: Cathy Miller – County Council District Four, Dayne Pruitt – County Council District Five, Robbie Templeton – County Council District Six, Theo Lane – County Council District Seven. Executive session. 5:30 p.m., regular public meeting. Agenda: Election of county council chairman and vice chairman — Carson Penney, County Attorney. Approval of minutes for Dec. 17, 2024. Regular meeting. Public comment. Old business. Public hearings: A. Ordinance 2024-20 dissolving Spring Wood as a Special Tax District. — Steffanie Dorn, County Treasurer, third reading). New business: A. Consideration of a new contract term for the County Manager starting Jan. 7, 2025. — Carson Penney, County Attorney. B. Presentation and acceptance of Manley Garvin FY2024 Final Audit — Steffanie Dorn, County Treasurer. C. Consideration of the appointment of Special Tax District commissioners for the following subdivisions: Spring Valley — William R. Johnson — (Appointment), District Three, Woodbury — Jason Hall (Appointment), District Four, Woodbury — Leigh Ann Hanke (Re-Appointment), District Four, Woodbury — Sali Berisha (Re-Appointment),

District Four, Locksley Hall — Keith Hughes (Re-Appointment), District Six, Belle Meade — Steve Roberts (re-appointment), District Six — — Steffanie Dorn, County Treasurer. D. Consideration of the changes to the sick leave policy 6.3 regarding the Employee Assistance Program — Carson Penney, County Attorney. Pending items. District reports. Manager's report. Attorney's report.

WEDNESDAY GREENWOOD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: Commission Room (110 Metro Drive)
AGENDA: Call to Order and Invocation. The Chairman Notes if a Quorum is Present. Welcome Visitors: A. Greenwood Capital. Approval of minutes of Dec. 11, 2024, regular meeting. Action Items. Finance Reports for November 2024. Service Reports for December 2024. Other business: A. Consideration of issuing a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Engineering Services. B. Consideration of a Master Service Agreement (MSA) for Maintenance and Construction Services. C. Consideration of a Master Service Agreement (MSA) for Engineering Services. Executive session (S.C. Code Ann., § 30-4-70(a)(1)(2) — Personnel Matter and Receipt of Legal Advice. Adjourn.

EATS

From page 1A

roast beef, mushrooms, white sauce and alfredo sauce on top for \$14. A chicken pesto pasta dish is \$12.

At Good Times Brewing, folks can enjoy hot honey sliders with Cajun fries for \$12.

"This is a great creation made by our our head chef next door, and we've done this a couple of times before, but it's a favorite, so we'd like to bring it back," Bonaca said.

Bonaca's goal is to offer affordable favorites for customers to enjoy, while also spreading the word about other restaurants that are participating in the event.

"Just get folks in. Give it a shot," Bonaca said. "Might be a lot of folks that haven't seen us here, just like there's other places that in town that people may not be

EDWARDS

From page 1A

December of that year, she preached her first sermon.

Fast forward to today, and Edwards is the pastor at Bailey Bethel AME Church in Greenwood.

"This is what I've been called to do, be a pastor," Edwards said. "So, I set the standard as being a true leader to my calling, not just for the people, but to myself and to the Lord."

Outside of the church, Edwards inserted herself into the community she loved. She volunteered where she could, was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and became a representative of the Greenwood NAACP chapter.

But it wasn't until August 2018 that she decided she wanted to pursue a public servant role in government. It began with the death of her cousin, TaDarius. He was a senior at Emerald High School. At that time, gun violence was a growing presence.

"There were strange shootings going on in the communities," Edwards said. "Every other month there was a shooting going on."

TaDarius, 18, was gunned down at a home in the Wheatfield community.

"My cousin got shot and he died," Edwards said. "They kept saying he was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Edwards went to the scene where her cousin and others had died. It was there she be-

HEART

From page 1A

drive to help others, she decided she was going to lend him a helping hand.

"He needed a name for him going out and doing stuff. When I prayed on it, 'Christian Ministry' came up," Boyd-Edwards said.

After a few tries at printing, she gifted Christian his own shirts with the name "Christian's Ministry John 3:16."

"It's just who he is," Boyd-Edwards said as she beamed with pride. "Christian's Ministry isn't just a name — it's his calling. Seeing him light up when he's helping others fills my heart with

aware that they exist. So, it's a good chance to kind of get around and see everybody, and for us to all kind of cross promote each other."

Customers who enjoy these meals, drinks and desserts are asked to post a photo the social media with the tag #gwdeats. Prizes such as gift cards will be given away. At the end of the two-week event, one of the posts will be chosen as the grand prize winner.

"Over the next two weeks, we'll have some prizes that'll be given out to the participants, and our big grand prize will be a compilation of all of the participating restaurants," Williams said.

The goal is to continue the event and expand to include more businesses in Greenwood County.

"Hopefully, we can do this every year, and hopefully every year we'll add some new element to it. But the main thing is just to highlight our restaurants," Williams said.

gan talking to the families, grieving with parents and friends. It was those interactions that made her want to do something to help.

"I got tired of black-on-black crime so much, with all the gun violence going on, I wanted there to be a safer community, and I wanted to be a voice," Edwards said.

Her biggest focus was on the youth of Greenwood. She began mentoring students who dropped out and began speaking to local residents about improving the community.

"I knew I had to do something," she said. "There was something that was drawn in me. I wanted to be a hands-on. I wanted to go in the community, talk to people about what was going on."

Determined to make an impact, Edwards decided to run for mayor in 2018. While she did not win the first or second time, she continued advocating for her community.

This past year she ran for and won the seat for Ward 3, after member Betty Boles decided not to seek reelection. At December's meeting, Edwards was joined by her mother, her son, T.J., and dozens of community members for her swearing-in.

Now, Edwards says she is ready to represent the people and make the city she loves even better.

"That's what I want to do," she said. "The point to me is to do my best as a servant to my ward and to all of Greenwood."

so much joy?"

His latest event was at Elite Home Care and Day Care Center at Christmastime. Christian, his mom and his Nana donated dozens of hats and gloves. As the new year continues, you can be sure to find him back out in the community.

Boyd-Edwards says she sees him still helping others when he grows up.

"I see him as a teacher and a preacher," she said. "He'll keep moving forward, loving church and be doing this for the community, for the people."

Contact Renee Ortiz at 864-943-5643. Follow her on X at: [IJReneeOrtiz](https://twitter.com/IJReneeOrtiz)