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# The Clinton Chronicle

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Clinton, SC - 75 Cents

Wednesday Oct. 2nd, 2024  
MyClintonNews.com

## Horrible Helene



### FALLING TREES SMASH CLINTON, AS VAST STORM BATTERS WESTERN SOUTH CAROLINA

By Vic MacDonald  
Editor

Because we did not have internet, many news items are going to have to be published in the Oct. 9 issue, instead of in this Oct. 4 e-edition

The City of Clinton was pounded Sept. 27 by one of

the fast-developing hurricanes in United States history.

Hurricane Helene will forever be known as the storm that showed us just how fragile our everyday life can be. And, she showed us just how strongly we can bounce back.

IF, we do it together.

And, remember our faith.

As Broad Street Unit-

ed Methodist Church posted, Oct. 1 in announcing it has electricity, Psalm 46 - A Psalm of Comfort

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains

quake with their surging. ... The Lord Almighty is with us.”

The scope of Nature’s Fury makes those words even more important. Helene is responsible for at least 140 deaths over a 500-mile destruction path (CNN). Three fatalities have been officially reported in Laurens County - two in Clinton and one in Cross Hill.

Falling trees made responding to the storm even more dangerous, as witnessed by two Saluda County volunteer firefighters losing their lives can attest. Some utility crews - they came from throughout the nation - reported their trucks smashed by falling trees. Still, they worked.

And forevermore, we are grateful.

### “The spirit is alive”

By Vic MacDonald  
Editor

As the month turned from hurricane September to rebuilding October, two of Clinton’s most prominent citizens provided their perspective on challenges facing the community.

It has been a time, since Sept. 27, of neighbors helping neighbors, and people of faith offering prayers for their beloved community, and the county in which it lies.

This was PC President Dr. Anita Gustafson’s post on Oct. 1:

“The championship spirit is alive on campus as optimism fills the air. Crews and PC staff are working diligently to restore campus for students’ safe return next week. Many of our athletics teams are on the road and representing the Blue Hose nation.

“Prayer Service Tomorrow at 2 pm (Oct. 2): the Office of Spiritual Life will hold a Service of



### Neighbors helping neighbors

School District 56 staff and volunteers hand out sandwiches at the Clinton High School bus ramp, on Sept. 30. They also supported feeding sites at Cross Hill First Baptist Church and Joanna Woodson Elementary to address the food insecurity brought on by Hurricane Helene. Responding utility crews and first responders got a hot lunch in the school’s cafeteria. - Photo by Vic MacDonald

Prayer for the community in Belk Loggia. We’d love to see you.

“Campus Updates: Yesterday (Sept. 30), students who were still n campus and in residence halls with no power were temporarily moved to other residential facilities. Georgia Hall and Spradley are currently closed.

“As a reminder, campus is closed. Any students who have left campus,

please do not return until given the go ahead. If you have an urgent request, accommodations may be made. Text your name, room, and need to your RA Duty Phone ... Buildings without power require a Student Affairs escort and will not be allowed after 7 pm. Wait for an approval text before coming to campus.

“Students who are staying on campus please do

not prop doors open.

“Due to the tree that struck the Smith Administration building, the Provost’s Office will be relocated to 207 5th Avenue.

“Much of the debris has been cleared from Vance Plaza. We are looking at ways to utilize the trees we’ve lost. Hint: a fundraiser may be in the future.

“Homecoming ... is just around the corner, from



Nothing more needs to be said - words can never express our gratitude to our responding linemen, and their families. - Chris Patterson Photo



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# Community journalism starts with community

By Adam Strunk  
For National  
Newspaper Week

Running a local newspaper can be one of the most frustrating, worthwhile, mundane, exciting, demanding, rewarding endeavors you can take on. Sounds great, kids, doesn't it?

This year, we received the honor of a request to tell our story as part of National Newspaper Week. The week serves to highlight the important work local newspapers do in their communities and remind people nationwide of the value local news provides.

What's our story? Many of you know it already.

We were dumb kids, or in Bruce's case, a dumb man, who started a business in Newton, Kansas, with the idea that a community would pay for and support a locally owned newspaper filled with local news.

Start-ups are increasingly common today. In 2015, our idea was regularly greeted with the question, "You're

doing what?"

Naivete rarely gets rewarded in the business world. But for us, it was what allowed us to move forward.

There's a statistic that is bandied around. Roughly two out of 10 Americans have met or spoken to a journalist.

It usually gets cited in various think pieces about the decreasing trust of the public in the media.

People who've met a journalist are much more likely to trust what's reported in the news than people who have not.

We don't doubt that statistic. But we don't think it holds quite true in Harvey County. We don't think we'd be in business if that statistic was true.

When we opened, we hired Wendy Nugent, a long-time area journalist who'd met and interviewed residents of the county. Since working for us, she's written roughly 2,800 feature stories over her nine years. She's met a lot of people.

Bruce Behymer, the marketing dude, was a lifelong Sedgwick na-

tive. And he knew just about everybody. It's still difficult to have a conversation with him in a public setting without at least three people interrupting to say hi.

Three of us moved here for the first time, though Lindsey Young did a stint at Bethel College many years ago.

As we opened, we endeavored to be everywhere, speaking at local clubs and senior centers, even selling subscriptions from a truck tailgate at the farmers market.

We did this because we knew that if we could just communicate with many people what we were doing, people would believe in it and support us.

Over the years, all of us got to know the community and the readers.

We'd think that a good many of you who take this paper have spoken with us on the phone when buying a subscription, stopping in the office to chat, or doing an interview with one of our reporters.

You might have had us take your ticket or

pour you a beer at our annual Blues, Brews and Barbecue concert. You might have attended one of our monthly Press Club mingles. We invite subscribers to come by the office and come to a mingle, in part so they can get to know us better.

We'd hazard to say, at this point, the majority of our readers know at least someone at the paper.

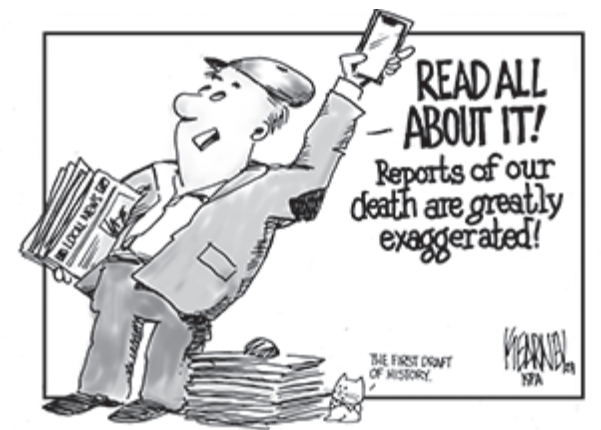
That's by design. And that's been important to us.

To us, local journalism isn't about watching a community succeed and struggle from afar. To us, local journalism is a way to participate in a community we care about by providing useful information, as well as a little bit of accountability, entertainment, and joy along the way. We want what's best for the community, because it's our community, filled with our readers, our friends, and our neighbors.

There's a joke that everyone hates Congress but loves their congressperson. To us, we've seen that with the paper. Many of our readers are skeptical of national media, but they support the paper. "You're one of the good ones," is a compliment that we're perhaps happy to get but makes us cringe just a tad, as well.

We're not doing things too much differently than some bigger publications. But we are visible, accessible and around.

And in doing so and in covering issues the way we've done over the years, we have the trust of many of you. A lot of trust. That's



not something we take lightly.

So if we've earned anything over our time and have to leave with one thought, it would be that we believe newspapers have a key impact on our communities. They keep the government honest. They keep people informed and connected. They provide a snapshot of life, far outside social media bubbles.

They advocate, desire to right wrongs, and seek to make where

they operate a better place.

We thank you all for giving us that opportunity, we thank you for your support, and we look forward to filling this role for many years in the future.

We hope you view our publication not only as a window to the community but an important part of its structure.

And if you have thoughts, as always, you know where to find us.

## .... but, also, Hope & Help



ABOVE, mobile showers at New Prospect Baptist Church, Hwy 221 S, Laurens; BELOW, food and an encouraging word at Clinton High School, Hwy 72 & Springdale Drive. Clinton.



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# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND CLINTON



Realizing that many events have been postponed because of Hurricane Helene, The Chronicle will resume the What's Happening calendar with the Oct. 9 issue. We know, for example, that the Laurens Police Department has rescheduled National Night Out from Oct. 1 to November 8.

An important update from the Laurens County Community Theatre: Due to the storm, our first weekend of Snow White and the Prince has been cancelled. But don't worry! We've added extra shows to next weekend. Catch us on October 10, 11 & 12 at 7:30 pm, and Oct. 12 & 13 at 3 pm.

Thank you for your understanding - we hope that everyone is fairing well and we can't wait to see you there! (Clinton High auditorium)



The Laurens County Sheriff's Office says a Point of Distribution for emergency management supplies will be announced for Clinton -- POD was Oct. 2 at Hillcrest East in Laurens.

Laurens County has announced its information numbers are:  
 864-681-2176  
 864-681-2177  
 864-681-2178  
 E-mail: LChelp@co.laurens.sc.gov

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### CRIME

Laurens County Sheriff's Office: On October 2, 2024 at approximately 1:30 AM deputies were engaged in a vehicle pursuit with an individual beginning at Reedy Creek Road in Fountain Inn. At approximately 11:45 AM, shots were fired. This was an officer involved shooting and SLED was requested to investigate as is protocol. Questions should be referred to SLED at this time.

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ABOVE, the heavily wooded Pinehaven Park in Clinton suffered the loss of 1 of its 2 new picnic shelter, built by Laurens County Rec with money from the Local Option Sales Tax passed by voters in Nov., 2020; Below, Geico is on the scene of Presbyterian College fallen trees removal and broken power poles (Maple Street).



CUTLINE: Sarah Segars is shown in her senior photo. She graduated from what was then Lander College in 1943. Photo from Lander Archives, 1943 issue of "The Naiad".

GREENWOOD — One of Lander University's oldest living alumni is approaching a major milestone.

Sarah Boazman Segars, of Laurens County, graduated from what was then Lander College in 1943, and is set to celebrate her 102nd birthday in October.

Her son, Ernie Segars, said his mother has had a "right remarkable life," and noted that Sarah was a day student at Lander and served as president of the day students' student government while attending.

After graduating, she began teaching all around the state of South Carolina. Sarah taught in Horry County, Columbia, Greenville, Greenwood and Laurens County — her hometown. After dedicating 40 years to teaching in the classroom, she continued to make an impact by instructing GED classes during her retirement.

### END ###  
Submitted by:  
Lindsey Hodges

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*From Lydia Mill to Presbyterian College, wooden electrical poles are snapped like twigs*

# Food Insecurity -- and Help Arrives

By Vic MacDonald  
Editor

Neighbors were helping neighbors Monday deal with the immense tragedy of Hurricane Helene in Clinton.

District 56 handed out food at Clinton High and

Joanna Woodson Elementary, (1 pm at CHS and 5 pm at JWES until supplies were gone) and at Cross Hill First Baptist Church; and the City of Clinton set up food give-aways at Martha Dendy Park, Shirley Jenkins Park and Lydia Mill Park. The Comfort

Food Queen Autsha Smith handed out food at 200 West Carolina Avenue (5 pm until gone).

Food insecurity was just of the problems at people faced, along with no electricity, blocked driveways and roads, gasoline panic, and suspension of County

EMS service until roads were made safer.

Hurricane Helene has killed at least 140 people on a 500-mile path of destruction (CNN). Western South Carolina was one of the worst hit - but not as bad at the mountains of Western North Carolina

where entire towns and neighbors were washed away. At one point, more than 600 people were unaccounted for. Social media reports said dead bodies could be seen on the river banks and in washed away trees.

By Wednesday morning, SC Emergency Management had set up a supplies give-away at Hillcrest East on Bolt Drive in Laurens, and the Sheriff's Office had posted a map of how to access the one-way-in-and-one-way-out drive through (10 a.m. - 7 p.m.) - next door, at Hillcrest Square, sat a large mobile until from Charleston County.

Still, Laurens County residents were wondering why we were not on the Governor's list of FEMA designated counties for individual aid - that has been remedied and the letter at left is Laurens County's attempt to explain what happened.

At one point during a horrific weekend, published reports said 22 people were dead in Clinton and surrounding vicinity. These were:

- 2 killed in Clinton as tree fell on a vehicle (a 3rd death was confirmed later as a tree fell on the house in Cross Hill);
  - 1 killed in a Greenwood house;
  - 2 Saluda County volunteer firefighters killed;
  - 2 Chapin people in Little Mountain, Newberry County;
  - 5 in Spartanburg County;
  - 2 in Anderson County;
  - 4 in Greenville County; and
  - 4 in Aiken County.
- Clinton was under a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew. Dis-

trict 56 schools are closed until Oct. 14 - varsity football was cancelled for Oct. 4, as was the Homecoming game hosting Union County (no make-up). Presbyterian College is closed until the end of fall break on Oct. 9 (the football team played at Davidson 2 days after the hurricane, on Sunday, rallying from a 35-6 deficit to make it a 10-point game in the 3rd quarter, before losing by 11, details at globehose.com). This coming weekend's Squealin' on the Square in Laurens was first announced as on, then announced as being re-evaluated, then announced as postponed with a make-up date to be determined by the Main Street Laurens board -- as recently as Wednesday morning, there were pig signs on some Laurens streets listing this weekend as the festival dates.

Right after the storm, PC's campus, Thornwell, and South Adair Street were the places to avoid because of fallen trees and the threat of more falling trees (roots weakened by saturating rain). The wreckage was even worse in the Lydia Mill neighborhood, where 3 men apparently from the National Guard fought valiantly against one of the huge trees blocking one of the streets.

Electrical lines were down everywhere.

A small group from Bethany Presbyterian Church gathered at The Depot for prayer. Behind them, a crew from Power Grid Services of Hartselle, Alabama, worked with a Clinton crew to repair an electric pole, leaning toward Highway 76.

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Melissa Ferqueron, Deputy County Administrator  
Cheyenne Noffz, Clerk to County Council

After working non-stop through the weekend ensuring life and safety needs were attended to, Laurens County officials, staff, and volunteers gathered today to coordinate the initial property damage assessment process following the recent severe storm that impacted the area. The meeting with South Carolina Emergency Management and Laurens County Emergency Management covered key details about the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) thresholds for public assistance, as well as the classification criteria for assessing damages to homes and businesses. Residents should expect to see assessors out in various areas beginning today through this week.

County Administrator Thomas Higgs explained, "This is a true team effort as we work to document the impact across Laurens County. Our local damage assessment teams, comprised of staff from various departments as well as volunteers, will be the eyes and ears on the ground in the days ahead."

The teams will be classifying damages, which will help determine the overall impact and potential eligibility for state and federal disaster assistance programs. Residents are encouraged to work with the assessment teams as they canvass neighborhoods.

In addition to the damage assessments, county officials have coordinated with the South Carolina Emergency Division to provide the public with supplies tentatively beginning Wednesday, October 2nd. MREs, water, and tarps will be available for drive-thru pickup between 10AM and 7PM in the Voter Registration parking lot (105 Bolt Dr. Laurens). We will notify the public when the items are available.

"This is a challenging time for our community and all of our county teams as well as municipal and utility partners have been working nonstop to take care of the needs of Laurens County citizens," said County Council Chairman Brown Patterson. "By working together with our community, we can accomplish more and work toward recovering from this devastating storm."

Our federal and state counterparts are assisting us with these efforts.

The First Methodist Church located at 244 W. Main Street in Laurens is currently serving as a shelter for those in need. The church will remain open until 8am tomorrow, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at which time the Ridge at 301 Exchange Drive will serve as the shelter location.

Laurens County will continue to provide updates when possible.

###

**Hurricane Helene information line: 1-866-246-0133**  
**South Carolina Emergency Management Division**



**“The poles and wires that make up our transmission system have experienced unprecedented damage.” - Michael Callahan, president of Duke Energy’s utility operations in South Carolina**

## In the brutal sunlight of Monday morning ...

By Vic MacDonald  
Editor

The new picnic shelter at Pinehaven Park is crushed.

The City’s sign for the new recreation center is in the middle of branches.

The new Clinton library seems to be OK, because a large tree in the back fell away from the building.

The rear entrance to the gym and cafeteria at Clinton High School looked like a utility staging area, because crews were getting a hot mid-day meal.

These are the sights of Clinton on September 30, 2024, along with the whir of chainsaw clawing out the residents of Lydia Mill from hundreds of fallen branches.

Slowly, Clinton is recovering from Horrible Helene.

Nearby, the board of Main Street Laurens has decided to postpone Squealin’ on the Square from this weekend to a date to be announced. The Square has power but many side streets still have disastrous conditions.

On many hack roads in Laurens County, the shoulders are filled with the remains of sawed up trees - if you are driving and meeting a car that strays into your lane, you have two choices, either of which can be fatal.

Thornwell in Clinton, which started as an orphanage, issued an updated condition statement. More than 30 trees are down, and several buildings are damaged. The best way to help is cash to: [thornwell.org/give/](http://thornwell.org/give/)

President/CEO Rev. Myron Wilkins said, “As we move forward, day by day, we draw comfort and inspiration from the Scriptures:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalms 46:1

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need, and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:8

“Trusting God to provide and restore.”

Also, Sadler Hughes Apothecary is providing community service. As of Monday afternoon, the phones were down but they were able to process claims. They have refrigerator packs for people who need to keep insulin refrigerated (bring old ones for trade in). They also have a conference room for charging phones.

Of course, the Sept. arrival of Hurricane Helene is a double whammy for Clinton, still reeling from the Aug. 27 fire that displaced 4 businesses on Musgrove Street. Some good news came in late September (just before the hurricane) as the Laurens County Council on a 6-1 vote agreed to commit \$250,000 to the Clinton Economic Development Corporation to match in whatever way the CEDC decides to use the money. The City also has asked the Laurens County Development Corporation for \$250,000 to help attract a \$5.8 Million investment in Uptown Clinton apartments.

As October approached, it appeared that the next time Laurens County has an emergency of this size confronting it, it will be in the capable hands of the Clinton Police Chief.

Sonny Ledda told The Chronicle on September 11 that he is retiring, but a later report left his plans after Oct. 4 up in the air. Subsequently, it was reported that Ledda will be the new Emergency Management director for Laurens County effective Oct. 15. He has more than 25 years experience working with and managing people and resources in the military and in law enforcement. He is one of several employees who have transitioned from working with Clinton to working for Laurens County, including the finance director and the city planner/building codes enforcer, to work under County Administrator Thomas Higgs, himself a former Clinton City Manager. So far, the Clinton City Council has not said anything, in public, about the city’s “brain drain”.

Also on Monday, the Laurens County Coroner’s Office identified 3 Hurricane Helene victims:

-- Richard Dylan Rathbone, 31, at Thomas Carson Lawson, 41, both of Clinton, who died when a tree fell on a car in Clinton; and

-- Carl Thomas Baiey, 59, of Cross Hill, who died when a tree fell on a camper.

Now that the immediate weather-crisis has passed - although there is another storm on the horizon - attention turns to how individual home owners can access aid from FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), which included Laurens County governments in an aid declaration, but not individuals based on a recommendation from Gov. Henry McMaster’s Office. Laurens Mayor Nathan Senn has been especially vocal about distinguishing City from County responsibilities in these cases. Other elected officials have weighed in, including State Senator Danny Verdi, a Laurens businessman:

“The past several days have been very difficult and daunting. On one hand we have heroic stories of neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, and the sense of community rallying together to protect one another. We thank God for those who have been kept safe through the storm. However, we also know that many are experiencing much pain right now with the loss of property, days without power and especially those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

“In times like these, it’s important to remember that we are in this together and brighter days are ahead - yet we also know that there is still a lot of work to be done first.

“I have been in constant contact with federal, state and local officials, law enforcement, fire and rescue, utility teams and the government offering our assistance in any capacity to help with disaster recovery efforts. I will do my best to update you on the latest impact to our area. If you need assistance please let me know: [dannyverdic@scsenate.gov](mailto:dannyverdic@scsenate.gov) or 803-212-6250. ...

“I want to personally thank all who have stepped up to keep our citizens safe: law enforcement, fire and rescue, EMS, line workers, public safety, and the countless private citizens who have taken it upon themselves to help those in need.

This is just the beginning, but with progress, and partnership, we will make it through the road ahead.”

Retiring Congressman Jeff Duncan and U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham also have sent out information about how individuals can

apply for federal aid.

Laurens County is one of 20 counties under a burning ban in unincorporated areas, including yard debris. The SC Forestry Commission has posted more to Facebook. Piedmont Tech remains closed through Oct. 4.

And, School District 55 has cancelled athletics and practices through Oct. 5 - Homecoming will be rescheduled.

More info was to be presented at a Wednesday, 4 p.m. press conference for local media at the Hillcrest administration.

### Things You Might Want to Know from Laurens County regarding Hurricane Helene Recovery

Laurens County officials, staff, and volunteers have gathered to coordinate a property damage assessment process; therefore, you should expect to see assessors out in various areas throughout the week.

Additionally, Laurens County has been working with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division to provide the public with supplies tentatively beginning Wednesday, October 2, 2024. MREs, water, and tarps will be available for drive-thru pickup between 10AM and 7PM at 105 Bolt Drive.

If you find yourself wanting/needing shelter, The Ridge, located at 301 Exchange Drive in Laurens is currently serving as a shelter location. It is air conditioned and has electricity to recharge devices.

For additional ongoing information relating to the recovery efforts for Hurricane Helene, please keep a check on the Laurens County Website OR call one of the Public Information Phonelines (PIPs) below between the hours of 8AM and 5PM.



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2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. All interest payments for the APY will be made at the end of the term or annually, whichever occurs first. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

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**FEMA: 1-800-621-3362**  
**disasterassistance.gov**

# Opinion

## Our View

### We had a good cry, then ...

Sitting on the sidewalk, in front of what is now The Grove apartments, in the dying hours of daylight, you couldn't help but choke back a tear. And wonder. "What are we going to do now?" What are WE, a Southern Textiles town, now without textiles, going to do with 4 burned out businesses and a gaping hole in our Uptown business community. We don't have the money to fix this. We've used all our money - repairing the police and fire station, trying to build a recreation complex, maintaining water, sewer, electrical lines, streets, garbage trucks, trying to attract investment and subdivisions - and, now, THIS? We had a cry. We prayed to God. We remembered what used to be there. Then, We got to work.

We have always done this. We have gotten to work. Look, what other Southern town our size has 2 colleges, an orphanage, a home for severely special needs people, places that used to be known as "nursing homes", the Sinclair Center. What other small Southern town pumps money into the maintenance and operation of a County Hospital (far too few, we fear). What other small Southern town tries to grow but finds people on its outskirts opposed to growth. And, now THIS? It is no wonder that this newspaper, just hours after the fire of August 27 on Musgrove Street, called for an audience with the Governor. If South Carolina is serious about resiliency, it can make a statement right here.



Right now. It can help this small Southern town survive. Not that we won't try to do it on our own. CLINTON NEVER asks for help. That way, when you expect nothing, you will never be disappointed. But, make no mistake, we do not have the money to fix all the problems The Fire has caused - we need a loan from the USDA, we need a community bounce back grant from HUD, we need attention from our Congressman - these are the people who know where the money is hidden. Political Candidates? You want our vote? Now's the time to earn it. Money that we, Clinton, have paid into the federal coffers FOR YEARS and really never seen a return on. Now we are going to regret having spent all that ARPA money, because the Pandemic wasn't that long ago and we were just starting to emerge from that disaster

(even as Covid is still among us) when this happened. The Employees of these businesses need help. And we will try to give it to them - with money to a foundation, and T-shirt sales, and music festivals, and GoFundMe because, that's who we are. And, make no mistake, we are NOT asking us to change in that regard. We have always been a generous people and that is not going to change, no matter how much The Nation turns skeptical about helping anyone who seeks a better life with anything. We had a good cry, on and after August 27 then, we got to work. Main Street Clinton, Main Street South Carolina, and the Laurens County Chamber of Commerce Foundation found themselves together, immediately, and there is a way you can help. It printed right across the masthead of This Newspaper, which

has been doing what we are doing right now - rallying the people of Clinton - since 1900. Sunshine City is selling shirts. A group is selling Prayers for Clinton shirts - their flyer is on Page 12 - the logo was designed by a man who survived the Bailey Manor fire. A Music Festival was conducted Sept. 22, as volunteer musicians stepped forward. Presbyterian College acknowledged first responders - using the name Hometown Heroes that we used in a special section not too long ago - at the Sept. 21 football game. All this raises awareness -- all this and much more that we probably don't even know about -- helps, and is very, very much appreciated. Our State owes much to our cities - not just the big ones, the ones that get ALL the attention, but us, too, the burned ones. - Vic MacDonald The Editor.

## E-learning

Dr. David O'Shields has urged all teachers to deal with compassion the missed e-assignments from this terrible time. This is the District 56 statement about schools closing:

Due to the unprecedented damage caused by Hurricane Helene, all Laurens County School District Schools will be on e-learning Sept. 30 - October 2. As you know the loss of power ... and interrupted cell service have wreaked havoc across multiple counties, including ours.

Intercession will be postponed; therefore, with fall break, no school will be held until Monday, October 14. Twelve month employees will report as scheduled once power is restored.

Please Stay safe, cool as possible, and hydrated (see Clinton Middle Facebook for more school-related details).

**No sooner had Clinton wrapped its head about one tragedy - the Aug. 27 Musgrove Street fire - we were hit with another - the Sept. 27 arrival of Hurricane Helene. These are commentaries related to both events.**

**More History about 120 Musgrove Joanne Todd Stewart**

With so much being shared about Clinton's devastating fire recently that took out several of the old buildings on Musgrove St, I have been much in thought about the building at 120 Musgrove. Most every Clinton native has fond memories of this being Roses' dime store. Many have recalled the squeaky floors and the aroma of fresh popcorn. I too remember these characteristics of this store; however, some of my family stories reach back a bit further than these memories.

Before 120 Musgrove was P H Rose building, it was The Bee Hive, built around 1910-1912. It was owned by my great, great uncles, George Bailey and his brother, Preston B. Bailey. It was a mercantile dry goods store. My grandfather, Clyde Todd, was head salesman at The Bee Hive until his untimely death during the Spanish flu epidemic in 1918. I grew up hearing about this store from my grandmother and my father, Hubert Todd. I recall as a child seeing in the sidewalk several translucent glass blocks that let light in to the basement below. Also embedded in the sidewalk were brass discs saying THE BEE HIVE.

My father's cousin, Joe Simpson, has written two little books about growing up in Clinton, MY MEMOIRS and OTHER MEMOIRS, by Joseph Horace Simpson. Several times he referenced The Bee Hive, stating that in 1913 he took a job as a clerk along side my grandfather, Clyde Todd.

One paragraph in OTHER MEMOIRS, p. 15, tells an interesting fact about the construction of this building.

"When Messrs. George W. Bailey and Arthur P. Little erected the BEE HIVE, now known as the Rose Building, there was a good live spring of pure water underneath the sidewalk. They placed a coil in this spring and had it capped, or boxed in. The surplus water was then piped under the store and into a ditch behind the store. A nice fountain was erected at the edge of the sidewalk with a place for horses to drink on the street side and a bubbling spout for humans to get a good cold drink of water on a hot summer day. The fountain has long since been done away with but I wonder if the ditch is still carrying off the water or if the spring has gone dry."

Simpson recalled another story of advertising the Bee Hive. OTHER MEMOIRS, p 38.

"One of the methods of advertising back then was to have a wooden board about two feet square with advertisements printed on them. One of these signs was nailed to an old oak tree on a hillside road and said, Hurry, Hurry, if you want to see Clyde at the Bee Hive."

Yes, this destructive fire took a lot of Clinton history with it. I'll never forget the text my son sent me during that night, "Downtown Clinton is on fire. THE BEE HIVE is gone."

# The Clinton Chronicle

STAFF  
Chris Patterson ..... Publisher  
Vic MacDonald ..... Editor/Designer  
Victoria Steele ..... Bookkeeping  
Jamie Bishop, Johnny Jacks ..... Distribution

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Letters to the Editor are written by readers of The Chronicle. **We will not print unsigned letters.**

All advertisements are accepted and published by the Publisher upon the representation that the advertiser/agency is authorized to publish the entire contents and subject matter there-

of. It is understood that the advertiser/agency will indemnify and save the Publisher harmless from or against any loss or expense arising out of publication of such advertisements, including without limitation, those resulting from claims of libel, violation of rights or privacy, plagiarism and copyright infringement.





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**REAL ESTATE**  
Two refurbished homes for sale by owner in Clinton, 206 S. Adair - big two-story, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, hardwood floors, new architect roof (main part and porch), two new HT/AC units, utility house, basements, carport, 3700 sq ft under roof. Reduced to \$210,000. Also, 705 E. Ferguson St., 3 bedrooms, 1 shower bath, refinished hardwood floors, central HT/AC, dishwasher, new architect roof, new water heater, big deck, carport, shady lot, reduced to \$105,000. Both homes passed city inspection. Contact Charles Buice, 864-833-4679. S11-4p-O2

To Buy  
House to be moved. 864-872-9787, call between 9 am and 4 pm. S14-tfn

To Rent  
Glendale Manor Apartments: 1 & 2 BR apartments for elderly or 50+ handicapped/disabled. Rent based on income. Call 833-5742 for appointment. Equal Housing Opportunity, handicapped accessible. Ag26-tfn

Services  
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**BUYING THE COMMEMORATIVE COKE**

and drink bottles made at Laurens Glass in 70s and 80s. Also any older Coca-Cola advertising items: signs, trays, toy trucks, thermometers, clocks, etc. Call 681-2202. A14-tfn

1981 CLEMSON Championship drink cans. Call 681-2202. F15-tfn

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES**  
All person having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on FORM #371ES with the Probate Court of Laurens County, the address of which is P.O. Box 194, Laurens, SC, 29360, within eight (8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim, and a description of any security as to the claim.

Estate: Judy Mae Pyles. Date of Death: May 30, 2024. Case Number: 2024ES3000318. Personal Representative: Anzetta Nekol Pyles, 210 Fairview Lake Way, Simpsonville, SC 29680. S25-3p-O9

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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2024 CORVETTE-white. LT2 engine, performance exhaust, many extras! Museum delivery (2,000 miles). Call or text 843-283-8930. \$67,500 obo!!

**AUCTIONS**

Absolute Construction-Truck Auction. Tue., Oct 8 at 8AM Lumberton, NC. Major construction - trucks will sell at 1PM and cars at 10:00AM. 10%BP. meekinsauction.com NCLN 858 910-739-0547

**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.

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# Sports & Recreation



Mark your calendars and start making plans. Keep an eye on the website, your mailbox, email, and social media as we will update activities and fill in additional information. Some events do have participation maximums, so your early RSVP is encouraged. Please note that some activities are by invitation only.

Thursday, Oct. 17

**REOPENING OF THE MARY BAILEY VANCE SUITT ROTUNDA AND BAILEY GALLERY**  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Neville Hall

Join us as we reopen this fine gallery inside the beautiful rotunda of Neville Hall. Enjoy music, fellowship, and refreshments with members of the PC and Clinton communities. This will be a Laurens County Chamber of Commerce – Business After Hours.

Friday, Oct. 18

**CLASS OF 1974 50TH REUNION LUNCH**  
Noon – 1:30 p.m. (invitation only)  
Harper Center

Get ready to step back in time and share a slice of nostalgia for this year's 50th Reunion, a cherished moment for those who hold a special place in PC history. The Harper Gallery becomes a portal to the past, a space where memories are rekindled with the warmth of familiar faces.

**SCOTOBERFEST**

Noon – 3 p.m.

East Lawn (by GDH)

The History Department welcomes you to the East Lawn to immerse yourself in a culture that's rich, vibrant, and undeniably festive. So, bring your appetite, inner warrior,

and sense of adventure.

**PC ROTC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY**  
2 – 2:45 p.m.

Armed Forces Memorial (in between Jacobs Hall & Harrington-Peachtree Center)

The ROTC Plaza takes center stage as the 2023 inductee will be honored. A moment where you become part of the legacy, the honor, and the unwavering commitment to the values that define the ROTC program. Be a part of this extraordinary chapter in PC history.

**TRUE BLUE LEGACY TOUR**  
3 – 4:30 p.m.

Kuhne Auditorium (Neville Hall)

The True Blue Legacy Tour offers an exclusive opportunity for alumni with children in 9th through 12th grade to engage in an informative session with esteemed faculty, gaining insights into the evolving academic landscape. The event also encompasses a comprehensive campus tour, providing a firsthand glimpse into the institution's cutting-edge facilities and vibrant scholastic environment.

Legacies – please have your high school-age student register with the admissions team here

**BEN HAY HAMMET SOCIETY RECEPTION**  
5 – 6:30 p.m. (invitation only)  
President's Home

The Class of 1973's induction into the Society is a testament to the mark you've left on the fabric of PC. Along with alumni who have tread the path for 50 or more years, it's a rendezvous of legends, a union of wisdom, and a tribute to those who

have shaped the legacy and spirit of PC.

**NEVILLE BBQ, LAWN PARTY & CLASS REUNIONS**  
6:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Neville Hall

Get ready to barbecue and boogie with the ultimate party under the stars and the gorgeous backdrop of Neville Hall. Reunion classes and all alumni will enjoy a fun night mingling with students, faculty, and staff while creating new memories with old friends. We'll have a barbecue with all the fixings prepared by The Pasture and beverages served by The Lumberyard. Both are favorite local establishments in downtown Clinton. Get those dancing shoes on, too, because the beats are going to be infectious, courtesy of Soul Intent! (food and beverages for purchase at the event)

Saturday, Oct. 19

**BREAKFAST WITH THE PRESIDENT**  
8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

Smith Administration Building

Set those alarms for a delectable breakfast spread, and the dynamic presence of Dr. Anita Gustafson, our 20th president. Whether you are reuniting with a familiar face or crossing paths for the first time, this is an opportunity that's about to fill your day with energy and enthusiasm. Join us in the newly renovated Butch '60 and Brenda Woodward Lobby in the Smith Administration Building and get a sneak peek into the future of our beloved institution.

**ALUMNI AWARDS & MEMORIAL RECOGNITION**

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Belk Auditorium

Join the energy of old friends, new acquaintances, and kindred spirits in the illustrious Belk Auditorium. Get ready to be inspired as we highlight the alumni trailblazers, achievers, and game-changers of 2023 and honor the memory of those who have passed

**TRUE BLUE TAILGATE**  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Bailey Memorial Stadium  
(\$25 per person)

Year one was a great success, year two is going to be even better! Hang out with your squad, catch up with classmates, and rekindle bonds that will last a lifetime. Food and drinks provided. Music by acoustic duo Time Pirates. But hold on tight, because here's the cherry on top – reserved spaces for reunion classes! Spread the word and get ready to dive into a tailgating phenomenon!

**BLUE HOSE VS DRAKE**  
1 p.m. Kickoff

Bailey Memorial Stadium

Get ready to shake the very foundation of Bailey Stadium. Bring your energy and excitement as we gear up for the showdown of epic proportions, where every pass, every tackle, and every touchdown sends a shockwave through the crowd. So, get ready to show the power of the Blue Hose spirit – a force to be reckoned with! Go Blue Hose!

For ticket information or to purchase tickets, please call (864) 833-8240 or visit the "Fan Zone" tab on [www.gobluehose.com](http://www.gobluehose.com).

## PC Football battles at Davidson in Helene game

By Vic MacDonald  
Editor

Presbyterian College Football players knew two things when they played Sept. 29 at Davidson.

1. This was supposed to be a Saturday night home game, but Hurricane Helene a day before made that impractical; and

2. People in Clinton were hurting, their campus was in tatters because of falling trees, and it was uncertain what they would be coming home to. So it

was no surprise that as the 5 p.m. game began, they might have been a little distracted. Davidson took advantage of that to score 28 second-quarter points.

Falling behind 35-6, they could have just packed it in - live to fight another day. But, then, something happened.

PC put up 18 third-quarter points, as Davidson managed 7. Basically, midway through the third quarter it looked like whoever would win, would win the fourth quarter-

that quarter wound up 6-6 and the Wildcats took an 11-point Pioneer Football League win, in the game they weren't even supposed to host.

But, we learned something about the 2-3 Blue Hose playing in Steve Englehart's third season against the 3-1 Wildcats -- they are a much tougher "out" in the nationwide PFL than in seasons past. That could be important later - they have pre-season league number one Drake coming in Oct. 19.

The 48-37 Davidson win secured for them, again, the 1919 Cup, symbol of the cross-border NC-SC rivalry. The Blue Hose don't want to have to be a second-half team, but in the game, it's hard to argue with the result - outscoring the opponent 25-12 in the second half, earning more first downs, 28 to 23, and making good on 9 of 13 3rd down conversions. Redshirt freshman QB Collin Hurst became the first signal-caller in the Englehart era

to throw for at least 350 yards (he had 358), and Worth Warner caught 8 passes for 132 receiving yards. Senior Zach Switzer scored 3 times, two runs and one reception, and went for 143 all-purpose yards.

Now, if they could run and if the defense can just come along so the opponent doesn't score 48 points, things may be on the right track. For his part, senior Alex Herriott did the job, 13 tackles and the 12th time in his

career with at least 10 tackles in a game. He is the 3rd player since 2007 (PC joins NCAA Division I) to record 300 tackles altogether. So now, with the PC campus still closed to the public because of weather-induced hazards, the Blue Hose have to fly off to San Diego. But now they go as a symbol -- a symbol of Clinton's resolute spirit, that hurricanes can blow fiercely, but just like The Palmetto, this team knows it can bend but refuses to break.

**Coaches, send your team's info to: [news@clintonchronicle.net](mailto:news@clintonchronicle.net)**

# SPIRIT - FROM PAGE I

October 17 - 20. If the recent storm has shown me anything, it's that the love for PC runs deep. We rally, we fight, and we support one another. This year's Homecoming will be a much-needed celebration, filled with festivities, fun, and friendship.

"Go True Blue."

A PC alum and voice of Blue Hose Football in-stadium, Clinton Maypr Randy Randall wrote Oct. 1. "Friends: we have had a rough few days and our journey back to normalcy has just begin. Our city employees have been working around the clock. Our power grid sustained major damage, but it is slowly and carefully being restored. I want to thank Governor McMaster, Senator Verdin and Representatives Gilliam and Willis for their support as well as our county officials who are all working together. I have seen so many citizens and neighbors as everyone has been helping each other. Please be patient for the next few days. We will get power restored and the clean up and rebuilding will continue. #ClintonStrong"

## Roundup

The Saints Varsity Volleyball team fell to Dixie and Abbeville last week.

The Saints took a 25-13 loss to Dixie before winning 15-25 and being defeated 25-11 and 25-20.

Reece Cummings and Jessi Pitts each had 8 kills with Karliegh Porter having 6. Nahla Vargas had 4 aces and Janessa Centeno 3. Cummings had 3 blocks and Centeno 2. Madi Pieter had 11 digs and Centeno 8.

The team was also defeated by Abbeville in three games of 15-25, 14-25 and 23-25.

Pitts led with six kills and Karliegh Porter had 5. Addison Stroud contributed 4 aces and Madi Pieter had six digs with Stroud, Vargas and Centeno each having 4.

Thornwell 3, Ware Shoals 0. Scores: 25-18, 25-11, 25-15.

Clinton High School Girls Tennis Results

CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL 6

FAIRFIELD CENTRAL HIGH 0

# 1 Singles Libby Dailey defeated Rayvin Trapp 6-0, 6-0  
# 2 Singles Addy

Derrick defeated Ari Weldon 6-1, 6-0

# 3 Singles Merin Orr defeated Roe Cameron 6-0, 6-0

# 4 Singles Deborah Goldman defeated Abeni Burrell 6-0, 6-1

# 5 Singles

Kayleigh Lawson defeated Zara Burrell 6-0, 6-0

# 1 Doubles Dailey & Derrick Did Not Play

# 2 Doubles Abby McMurray & Savannah Fountain defeated Ninia Davis & Thiana McDougall 6-0, 6-1

CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL 7

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL 0

# 1 Singles Libby Dailey defeated Zmari Trapp 6-0, 6-0

# 2 Singles Addy Derrick defeated Lauren Davis 6-0, 6-0

# 3 Singles Merin Orr defeated Samara Schultz 6-0, 6-0

# 4 Singles Deborah Goldman defeated Amy Simons 6-0, 6-1

# 5 Singles

Kayleigh Lawson defeated Nykoi Campbell 6-2, 6-0

# 1 Doubles Dailey & Derrick defeated Trapp & Davis 6-0, 6-0

# 2 Doubles Abby McMurray & Savannah Fountain defeated Zannah Eisland 6-0, 6-1

Clinton High School 2-1 Overall; 2-0 Region III

Volleyball

Varsity: Clinton 3, Fairfield Central 0. Scores: 25-12, 25-13, 25-6. Clinton's 1st region win.

Clinton 3, Laurens 1. Scores: 28-26, 25-23, 19-25, 25-16.

JV: Clinton 2, Laurens 0. Scores: 25-15, 25-16.

Boys Cross-country: Clinton 8th, 215 points, in Warrior Invitational; William Reid (2nd) an elite performance according to SCRrunners.com with new CHS record, 15:38.

Clinton 24th, 750 points at Eye Opener; William Reid 5th out of more than 600 runners.

Girls Cross-country: Clinton 14th, 343 points, at Warrior Invitational.

Clinton 54th at Eye Opener; runners from SC, NC, Georgia & Virginia.

## Players of the week

The Oct. 3 Laurens County Touchdown Club meeting was cancelled because of Hurricane Helene damage and recovery.

The Laurens County Touchdown Club is proud to announce that for the September 13 game, the Player of the week is Junior Nehemias Fernandez of Laurens District High School.

Nehemias is a junior offensive running back and quarterback for the Raiders as they lost a hard fought contest to A C Flora by a score of 20 - 17 at Memorial Stadium in Columbia.

Junior Nehemias 'Nemo' Fernandez offensively had 26 carries for 217 yards and one touchdown. Fernandez was a workhorse all night and had several long runs including his 49 yard run for a touchdown in the 3rd quarter. Fernandez averaged 8.3 yards per carry on the night. Head Coach Greg Porter stated, "Nehemias has an incredible work ethic on and off the field. Nemo has always put the Team first...and when needed to play quarterback, there was no hesitation. It's about the Team from him."

The Laurens County Touchdown Club honored Fernandez on September 19 at the third Touchdown Club meeting of the year. Player of the Week awards this year will be presented by Farm Bureau Insurance of Laurens County.

Clinton High School volleyball player McKenzie Clark is the GoLaurens.com Athlete of the Week, presented by Self Regional Healthcare in partnership with the Lakelands Region YMCA-Laurens and the Clinton YMCA.

Nominees for the week of Sept. 9 included McKenzie Clark - Clinton High School, Nehemias Fernandez - Laurens District High School and Campbell Sherman - Laurens Academy. Clark, a junior, recorded 58 kills, 0.345 hitting % and 33 blocks last week for the Clinton High School Red Devils.

"McKenzie is a driven athlete who brings a big personality to the court and is able to make big plays when they matter most," said CHS head coach Danielle Delio.

The GoLaurens.com Athlete of the Week is a weekly initiative that will run 32 weeks during the 2024-2025 school year. Athletes from Clinton High School, Laurens Academy, Laurens District High School and Thornwell Charter School are eligible.

Hutchinson and Sundli-Hardig Claim Big South Weekly Honors

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The Presbyterian College Blue Hose men's soccer program claimed two Big South weekly awards, as announced by the conference office on Monday afternoon. After his prolific goal-scoring week, senior forward Damorney Hutchinson garnered Big South Offensive Player of the Week accolades. After his integral role in two Blue Hose wins, freshman midfielder Jonas Sundli-Hardig captured Big South Freshman of the Week honors.

Hutchinson is the third player in Presbyterian's men's soccer program's history to earn Big South Conference Offensive Player of the Week honors. Sundli-Hardig is the tenth player in school history named Big South Freshman of the Week.

DAMORNEY HUTCHINSON

The St. Thomas, Jamaica native scored four goals in helping the Blue Hose record two wins with a 3-2 road win at Coastal Carolina on Monday, September 9, and a 3-0 home win over VMI on Thursday, September 12.

In the win over Coastal Carolina, he scored the game-tying and game-winning goals in the final seven minutes as the Blue Hose rallied for a 3-2 road win at perennial NCAA Tournament participant Coastal Carolina. He scored the game-tying goal in the 84th minute. Then, he converted a penalty kick for the game-winning goal in the 88th minute.

Against VMI, he scored goals in the 44th and 55th minutes. He had two other goals called back that he scored on offside calls.

Hutchinson is tied for sixth in the NCAA with a Big South leading five goals.

In his two seasons at Presbyterian, Hutchinson has scored 12 goals which places him third on Presbyterian's Division I era career goals scoring list.

JONAS SUNDLI-HARDIG

The Bergen, Norway native assisted on Presbyterian's goal in the closing minutes of the first half of the Coastal Carolina game which would tie the score at one. The Blue Hose would go on to win the game, 3-2.

Then, Sundli-Hardig played an integral role in helping the Blue Hose defense record their second shutout of the season in the 3-0 win over VMI. He helped the Blue Hose limit VMI to one shot which came in the 89th minute.

This season, Sundli-Hardig is tied for the Big South lead in assists with three.

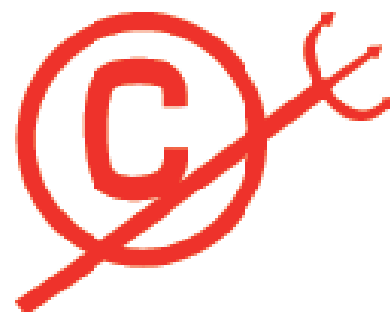


Clinton Red Devils at Week 3, the Laurens County Touchdown Club. The Oct. 3 meeting is cancelled, and the Oct. 17 meeting - at The Ridge in Laurens - is scheduled to feature Rick Sanford, 2021 SC Football Hall of Fame and former USC great.

**The Laurens County Advertiser has reported that the Clinton at Liberty game for this Friday has been postponed with a make-up to be determined.**

**District 55 has announced that all athletics and practices have been cancelled through Saturday, Oct. 5 -- Homecoming scheduled for this weekend will be rescheduled.**

# Red Devil Football



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FRIDAY Oct. 4 @ Liberty POSTPONED BY HELENE, MAKE UP TBD ...

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Saturday Mornings: Saturday Morning Rewind 9 am  
Encore presentation of last night's game 10 am





*Bent, but not broken*

