

CALENDAR

Index-Journal's Community Calendar is a public reminder of special events and meetings sponsored by civic clubs, community groups and governing bodies for up to seven days of publication. Deadline for these items is seven days prior.

TODAY

- 7:30 a.m. – Emerald City Rotary, Greenwood Country Club.
- 9:15 a.m. – Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) SC279, nonprofit weight loss support group, weigh-in, with meeting at 10 a.m., Greenwood Wesleyan Church, 210 Bypass 225 S. Call 229-3062 or 229-4404.
- 9:30 a.m. – Weight Watchers at Piedmont Plaza, Bypass 72 N.E. and Durst Avenue, next to GAC.
- 9:45 a.m. – Greater Greenwood Chapter of AARP, Piedmont Agency on Aging, 808 S. Emerald Road, room 102. Visitors and prospective members 50 and older are invited.
- 10 a.m. – Quilter's Workshop, Hancock's Fabric Store. No membership fees. Bring something to work on, Show & Tell.
- 10 a.m. – Early Bird A.A., 113 Mason St.
- 11 a.m. – Silver Sneakers, free fitness class, designed for seniors 65 or older (muscular strength and range of movement), at Anytime Fitness, 1560 Parkway, 227-9955.
- 11:30 a.m. – Greenwood Woman's Club luncheon. Program: A Christmas Surprise by Sandra Johnston.
- 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – Lakelands BNI Referral Partners (Business Network International), at T.W. Boons. Call Billy Baer, call 980-9199.
- Noon – Narcotics Anonymous at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 501 E. Cresswell Ave.
- Noon-1 p.m. – Lunch Bunch A.A., 113 Mason St.
- 7 p.m. – A.A. and Al-Anon (for families of alcoholics), Faith Home.
- 7:30 p.m. – McCormick A.A., Senior Citizens Building.
- 8 p.m. – Night A.A., 113 Mason St.

THURSDAY

- 6:30 a.m. – Greater Greenwood Toastmasters, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, South Main Street. Call Billy Baer, 980-9199.
- 10 a.m.-noon – Greenwood Piecemakers Quilting Club, Greenwood County Library. New members welcome. Call 229-7538.
- 10 a.m. – Early Bird A.A., 113 Mason St.
- Noon-1 p.m. – Lunch Bunch A.A., 113 Mason St.
- 5:30 p.m. – West Side A.A., St. Mark UMC, Big Book Study.
- 6:30 p.m. – Celebrate Recovery, support group for various recovery situations, Rice Memorial Baptist Church.
- 6:30 p.m. – Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group, 113 Mason St.
- 6:30 p.m. – Men's A.A., 113 Mason St.
- 6:30 p.m. – Grief Support Group at Northside Baptist Church in Calhoun Falls, support for those who are experiencing grief because of the loss of a loved one.
- 7 p.m. – Promised Land Community Association at Promised Land Fire Department, Highway 10. Community-wide; open forum. Prospective members invited.
- 7 p.m. – Abbeville A.A., Trinity Episcopal Church Parsonage, Bowie Street.
- 7:30 p.m. – Loyal Order of the Moose (L.O.O.M.) Lodge 834 at the Lodge, 1315 Highway 34 E.
- 8 p.m. – Night A.A., 113 Mason St.
- 8 p.m. – Narcotics Anonymous, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 501 E. Cresswell Ave.

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Nobody injured in armed robbery

Greenwood sheriff says suspect brandished pistol at beer depot employee

By MICHELLE LAXER
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Nobody was injured in an armed robbery Tuesday afternoon at the Cash Express Beer Depot at 1129 Reynolds Ave.

Greenwood County Sheriff Tony Davis said an unidentified suspect entered the store minutes before 1 p.m.

Davis said the suspect first went to the pool table in the back of the store. The employee followed him to check on him.

Davis said the suspect said something about the pool table to the employee. The suspect then stood up and faced the

victim, which is when the employee saw a pistol.

The employee hid in the store's refrigerator case where the beer was stored, Davis said.

The suspect went behind the counter and to the register when the employee hid.

Investigators spent Tuesday afternoon trying to process the scene and identify a suspect.

The Greenwood County Bloodhound Tracking Team was called to the scene to help search for the suspect.

Investigators believe the suspect was a man, but he was wearing a bandana over his face.

This is not the first time the Cash Express Beer Depot has been a victim of an armed robbery.

In September 2010, two men robbed the store armed with a large stick and handgun. According to reports from the sheriff's office, the employee working at the time was ordered to the ground with the suspect holding the gun. While he was on the ground, the suspect struck him several times on the head with the gun.

The suspect remained on the floor while the two suspects took money from the register and ran.



MATT WALSH | INDEX-JOURNAL

The Greenwood County Bloodhound Tracking Team searches for a suspect Tuesday afternoon after an armed robbery at the Cash Express Beer Depot on Reynolds Avenue.



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Car vs. house on White Oak Lane

Greenwood City Police, the Greenwood Fire Department and Greenwood County EMS responded Tuesday evening to a car wreck at 705 White Oak Lane, where a car hit a house. The vehicle owner told officers the car was parked in a driveway on the opposite side of the road when it rolled across the street and onto the front porch of 705 White Oak Lane. Police will continue to investigate.

Awards honor several community workers

By RUSSELL COX
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A passion for making a difference in the community became the theme of the second year of the Women of Excellence Awards, presented by Greenwood's Women's Leadership Council.

Judi Churchill, Dru James and Lisa Bartamus all received honors at the all-female council's ceremony, initiated in 2010 to recognize Greenwood women exhibiting outstanding service.

Churchill received the "Sustainer Award" for one who works to ensure the continued success of initiatives. The nomination highlighted her role with the "In The Spotlight" program for Greenwood County students, working out logistics of the educational performance initiative while behind the scenes.

Churchill's other efforts included work at First Presbyterian Church, including early work with its Stephen Ministry, the American Cancer Society, and helping obtain a needed activity bus for District 50.

In accepting the award, she said it belonged to those with whom she had contributed to the numerous community projects.

"I'm just one person who does things in the background," she said.

James might have served on Greenwood School District's board of trustees for well over a decade, but her nomination drew more attention to her work with Healthy Learners. James became the winner of the Catalyst Award, which presenter Linda Dolny described as one for a woman showing initiative and energy and who "regularly makes things happen."

James became part of the origi-



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Dru James, right, received the Women's Leadership Council's Catalyst Award, presented by Linda Dolny.

nal group involved with Healthy Learners' mission to help meet the medical, dental and optical care needs for Greenwood's students, meant to assist them in their educational potential. She said receiving the award among distinguished company came as an honor.

"Health and education are certainly my passions. Both of those things have everything to do with the community," she said. "As a community, if we can improve those things, we have created a future."

Finally, chamber President Angelle LaBorde, first recipient of the "Go Girl Award" for her efforts in seeking recognition for female leadership, presented the second such award to Bartamus and described the honoree as entertaining, energetic and a very active chamber member.

Bartamus said she has enjoyed more than two decades of living and volunteering in Greenwood.

"It's my home. It's where I've raised my children. It's where I've learned more about myself and what I'm called to do than I have ever learned in my life," she said.

The council again sponsored a scholarship which enabled Greenwood High junior Shirlandra Griffin to attend a leadership training summer program at Columbia College.

Thanking those who sent her, Griffin discussed the program which touched on the importance of networking and communication, and which she said allowed her to learn more about pride in a female identity and discover more of her nature as an outgoing person.

"I learned so much at Columbia College," she said.

Tobi Swartz, director of Furman University's Bridges to a Brighter Future program working toward college access for the disadvantaged, came in as a guest speaker for the event.

SALUDA

Council sets meeting dates

By MICHELLE LAXER
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SALUDA — Town Council unanimously approved the Council meeting dates and town holidays for 2012 in a meeting Tuesday night.

Councilwoman Anissa Turner was not present.

Mayor Frank Addy said the town followed the state's holiday calendar. The first meeting of the new year, also Council's next regularly scheduled meeting, is 6 p.m. Jan. 3, 2012. All council meetings are at Saluda Town Hall at 100 S. Jefferson St.

Council also approved two reappointments to the Zoning Appeals Board. The members unanimously approved for Thomas Sample and Veronica Coleman to serve another term with the board. Reappointments for the Planning Commission and Community Development Corporation were tabled until the January 2012 meeting.

Council also tabled the second reading of the flood mitigation plan so Town Administrator Randy Cole could be present at its vote.

In other business

■ Council unanimously approved the election commission's roster of names as the jury list for 2012.

■ Police Chief Michael Clancey announced the police department would host a bath salts and synthetic marijuana workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 18, 2012, at Saluda Town Hall. The workshop is open to the public.

■ The Saluda Christmas parade is 6 p.m. Saturday.