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City gets large grant for drainage

\$750K grant to fix Southside issue

BY GREGORY A. SUMMERS
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When it rains along Taylor Street in the Southside community, it doesn't pour; it floods.

A continuous drainage issue in the city that has exasperated some homeowners

for 20-plus years will finally get addressed.

The city of Lancaster has received \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the S.C. Department of Commerce to fix the problem.

The S.C. Department of

Commerce awarded the grant in late July.

Lancaster City Councilman Kenny Hood has been working for a number of years to get the troublesome drainage problem addressed.

"This means a great deal to me and has been a long time coming. People there have been through so much with the flooding," Hood said,

noting that about 20 homeowners had been dealing with the issue.

Hood thanked former and current City Council members for not letting Taylor Street fall through the cracks.

"I've been trying to get something done about it ever since the residents of District 1 elected me. I appreciate their confidence because

it takes everybody working together to get something done," Hood said.

The city of Lancaster was one of 15 communities in the state to receive CDBG funds, which are awarded twice a year to aid municipal governments in improving economic opportunities and revitalizing communities.

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Banks named new TLN sports editor

BY JANE ALFORD
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The Lancaster News has named a new sports editor, for the first time in four decades.

Mac Banks has been promoted to the position. He replaces Robert Howey, who retired in late July after 45 years at the newspaper, 44 of them as its sports editor.



Mac Banks

Banks has been with the paper for two years, covering education, crime and courts, business and general assignments. He has also stepped in to

cover sports whenever Howey has been out.

"It is exciting to be named sports editor at The Lancaster News," Banks said. "I realize the shoes that I am trying to fill. And while someone like Robert Howey can't be replaced because of all he knows about Lancaster County sports, I am excited to be able to carry on the tradition he perfected."

Banks has been in the newspaper industry for 23 years. He worked at the Fort Mill Times and The (Rock Hill) Herald for 19 years before coming to The Lancaster News in 2020.

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Lancaster County Sheriff's Office deputies Steve Heitz, left, and Justin Weiland, right, stand at the ready as Lancaster County EMS paramedic Allison Gorny is escorted into a classroom during an active shooter training exercise held Thursday, July 28, at Indian Land High School.

Gregory A. Summers/
reporter

Realistic, stressful police training at ILHS

Local agencies participate in active shooter exercise

BY GREGORY A. SUMMERS
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It's intensity times 10. You're one of four police officers in tactical gear standing at the end of a long school hallway on one side of a solid metal door.

Echoes of gunfire suddenly resonate, followed by blood-curdling cries of

uncontrolled anguish.

You have no clue what awaits you on the other side of that door. Your heart is pumping 90 miles an hour, your head is pounding and your nerves are jangled.

You have precious seconds to find out where the gunfire is coming from. You nod as the officer to your left swings the door open and you rush through it, with two officers at your hips.

Another burst of gunfire rings out and a stampeding herd of panicked students is now running in your direction as you keep your head on swivel to find out where this hell on earth is coming from.

You pivot into a classroom to find someone pointing a gun at you. Without hesitation, you neutralize that threat, never taking your eyes off the target.

Behind you, two officers with rifles leveled face in opposite directions in the hallway to back you up.

A second covey of officers in a single line are headed your way, escorting paramedics who dash through the doorway to treat the wounded.

But you never look away from the threat, concentrating on your role.

The above description is fiction, but it's that kind of

real-life scenario that the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and local emergency agencies participated in during active shooter training July 26 and 28 at Indian Land High School.

"We're trying to prepare for something we hope never happens in Lancaster County," said Sheriff Barry Faile.

"We want to make it as realistic as we can to put these officers under stress, so when the real thing happens, we have the basic fundamentals down and respond in the correct way," Faile said.

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Local trailblazer Jimmy Brown was hired Jan. 2, 1973, as the county's first Black deputy. He retired as the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office second in command on Oct. 1, 2001. Brown died July 27. He was 82.

Supplied



Brown, county's first Black deputy, dies

BY GREGORY A. SUMMERS
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Some people never get to walk the road they help pave, but Jimmy Brown Sr. did.

Lancaster County's first Black deputy died Wednesday, July 27. Brown was 82 years old.

A local law enforcement fixture,

Brown rose from a patrol deputy to second in command of the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office under former Sheriff Johnny Cauthen.

Sheriff Barry Faile, who succeeded Cauthen, called Brown a trailblazer who "worked hard" to make Lancaster County a better place.

"He was always fair to the people he swore to serve, as well as those who worked under his direction," Faile said. "Jimmy knew the importance of the relationship we had with the community, and he constantly worked to make that partnership stronger."

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