

Commentary:
Virus taught us
school choice
matters **A5**

the gazette

Sports: Goose
Creek Gators
unbeaten going
into playoffs **A6**

\$3.00

SERVING THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK
ourgazette.com || Thursday, February 25, 2021



PROVIDED: TRIDENT HEALTH
Vicky Tilman, RN, CSC, CES

Nurse makes mid-career job change

BY MATT BIASE
mbise@berkeleyind.com

On her career path, Vicky Tilman took the long way around to find fulfillment. Once a legal secretary at a Moncks Corner law office, an ailing father, an unfulfilled dream and a leap of faith, combined to give her purpose and a glowing sense of pride. And as the stressors of a pandemic unfolded both personally and professionally, she still wanted to learn more.

"I didn't become a nurse until I was 41. I had a whole other career prior to this," Tilman said. "I've always wanted to be a nurse but life takes its turns."

After spending 17 years at the law office, Tilman diligently cared for her sick father, the caregiving rekindled old desires. "I thought if I could take care of my father that way, I could take care of anybody," she said.

The military wife soon quit her job and started the journey to become a nurse. She ended up as an RN at Trident Health's Medical Center in Moncks Corner. The emergency room there sees about 15,000 patients a year and of course, beginning last year, COVID-19 put additional demands on healthcare workers.

"It was a very scary time; it still is scary at times, but we know so much more about it," Tilman said. "We have learned so much more about patients that get this virus."

But early on as the virus numbers began to climb locally and some health care workers were stretched to their limits, Tilman added a new dynamic—learn more about emergency care and become the only Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) at the Moncks Corner Facility.

So, as if working through a pandemic wasn't stressful enough, beginning in August she started out to get the certification. She often had to study for the certification test after working a 12-hour shift in the emergency room.

"COVID and the pandemic has consumed so much of everybody's time and everybody's thinking; it's hard not to think about it," Tilman said. "So obviously trying to learn other things, push all that in there and still have the pandemic, just making sure you're safe and your family is safe and you're not bringing anything home to your family, those things certainly played a role in a lot of stress."

So why didn't she wait until things are less stressful and the virus loosens its grip? Maybe it's Tilman's sense of urgency, when now is the time. "You can work together with the physicians and make somebody better sooner," said Tilman.

Towards the end of 2020 Tilman took the test and passed, giving her a national CES accreditation, it's given her new insight into how to work with physicians, nurses and patients.

"It encompasses everything, it just allows you to have more knowledge, so you can utilize critical thinking," she said. "So if someone comes to the door, what someone may recognize as minor, you may see something and say, 'this is more than a minor injury.'"

Tilman is now 12-years into her healthcare career and it's safe to say, the lifelong learner, has found her place on the front-line during a pandemic. "This is not being corny, I truly appreciate taking care of the community," she said. "This is a dream I had, it just took me a long time to get it."

Santee Cooper begins controlled spill

Staff report

Heavy precipitation throughout the area and in the watershed feeding the Santee Cooper Lakes has increased inflows to the Santee Cooper Lakes system.

To manage lake levels, Santee Cooper will increase its controlled spilling operation on Thursday at the Santee Dam on Lake Marion.

The flow began at noon Wednesday at a rate of 5,000 cubic feet of water per second into the Santee River.

Today (Thursday), Santee Cooper will increase the spill rate to 10,000 cubic feet of water per second and will increase it again on Friday.

Spill rates will continue to be ad-



PROVIDED

Heavy rain in the Upstate required a controlled spill at the Santee Dam spillway.

justed during this operation depending on inflows. Updates will be posted on Santee Cooper's Facebook

and Twitter accounts. Santee Cooper's dams and dikes are secure. Spilling is a normal part

of Santee Cooper's hydro operations in periods of increased inflows into the lakes. Information will also be updated each business day on the lakes' information line, 1-800-92LAKES.

Santee Cooper is South Carolina's largest power provider, largest Green Power generator and the ultimate source of electricity for 2 million people across the state. Through its low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity and water services, and through innovative partnerships and initiatives that attract and retain industry and jobs, Santee Cooper powers South Carolina. To learn more, visit www.santeecooper.com and follow #PoweringSC on social media.



SENIOR AIRMAN AARON IRVIN

U.S. Army paratroopers assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, prepare for a static-line jump over Alexandria, Louisiana during exercise Panther Storm, Feb. 1. The Panther Storm exercise demonstrated the capability of mobility aircraft to project the 82nd Airborne Division as the Initial Reaction Force in response to a developing crisis anywhere in the world on short notice.

Local troops ready 'anywhere, anytime'

BY SENIOR AIRMAN AARON IRVIN
19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 19th Operations Group from Little Rock Air Force Base acted as the lead AF unit in Panther Storm, a deployment readiness exercise (DRE) supporting the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Jan. 31 - Feb. 2, at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina.

Shortly after receiving the support request, six C-130J Super Hercules, nine C-17 Globemaster IIIs, and a Brazilian KC-390 conducted 18 heavy equipment drops and airdropped approximately 650 paratroopers at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

"One of the key capabilities that military airlift offers is the ability to deliver lethal combat forces

and supplies anywhere, anytime," said Capt. Taylor Swope, 41st Airlift Squadron airlift mission planning cell chief. "In order for the execution to be successful, Army and Air Force personnel must effectively integrate to ensure the desired effects of the operation are achieved. Exercising together fosters those healthy relationships, improving interoperability across the Joint Force."

This exercise showcased the capability of mobility aircraft to project the 82nd Airborne Division as the Initial Reaction Force in response to a developing crisis anywhere in the world within a short notice.

"Panther Storm offers Airmen from the 19th Airlift Wing an opportunity to see how important their role is in the bigger picture of projecting combat power," Swope said. "This isn't just about

aircrew or Army personnel — every service member has a role to play in ensuring mission success."

In addition to aircrew and maintenance personnel, the 19th OG and 913th Airlift Group provided 17 members; two from leadership, 10 mission planners, two ramp coordinators, two intelligence personnel, and a weather representative as overhead for the exercise.

"In order to improve, we have to continue to anticipate adversary actions and capabilities," Swope said. "If we fail to continue to practice against updated scenarios when we are called upon to execute it for real, we will find ourselves unprepared."

Through strengthening interoperability, this

Please see **TROOPS**, A2

Corless 'a gift' after near fatal heart attack

BY ABIGAIL HUTCHINSON
ahutchinson@journalscene.com

For many, going to the gym is another part of a routine which makes up our day to day lives. For Dave Corless, adjunct professor at Charleston Southern University, his daily trip to the YMCA in Summerville was something he looked forward to.

"He loved to go to water aerobics class and then he did the stationary bicycle and that was just part of his routine," said Kathy Corless, Dave's wife.

So on the morning of January 28, 2020, when Dave woke up to visit the gym, everything seemed to be



PHOTO PROVIDED

extremely ordinary. It wasn't until Kathy got a call from the YMCA to meet Dave and a host of emergency personnel at the Trident Medical center that the day began taking an unforeseen shift.

While Kathy rushed to the hospital,

Please see **HEART**, A2

Participants in the free throw competition included Ali VanMeter, physical therapist at Trident Medical Center; Dr. Shasta Henderson, ortho/trauma surgeon at Trident Medical Center; and Dr. Dondi Costin, president of Charleston Southern University.



6 36467 00006 4