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# City of Marion general election set for April 13

**NAEEM MCFADDEN**  
 Star & Enterprise

MARION, S.C. – City of Marion general election is set for Tuesday April 13. Several candidates are in the final days of their campaigns. Incumbent Mayor Ashley Brady seeks his second term. Brady earned 52 percent of the vote in his last campaign.

“It’s all going good getting out meeting and greeting people during my first term and I’m looking forward to a second term,” Brady said in a previous interview. Bennie T. Davis does among the challengers for the seat in 2017 and returns. Rounding out the challengers is Marion native Antonio McRae. “I want to be a difference maker in the community,” he said. “Not

for any selfish reasons but for the love of the community.” Marion City Council District 6 incumbent Michael Baker faces challenges from Joetha Kenney and Doristeen Francis. “I have some ideas that I would like to incorporate with my constituents and there are many things that they have brought up that I would like to bring to coun-

cil,” Kenny said, adding she was a life-long resident. Francis is a Marion native that says she wanted to get involved in city activities. Marion City Councilman for District 3 Emerson Hunt is seeking his third term. “To see our city improve even during a pandemic, economic concerns and everything else,

the love in the town and business continues to grow and it makes me feel great,” Hunt said. Betty Wright McRae is the challenger for the District 3 seat. Marion City Councilwoman for District 5 Tessie Lewis is running unopposed. “I’m excited about what this

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NAEEM MCFADDEN, MARION STAR & MULLINS ENTERPRISE

Marion County Magistrate Judge Danny O. Barker II holds a bond hearing Thursday for a Marion man arrested in the murder of a missing 80-year-old woman. Bond was denied for Dominique Davonah Brand, 29, of Marion, on charges of murder, kidnapping, possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime.

# Bond denied for Marion man

Brand is charged in murder of 80-year old former school teacher

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MARION, S.C. – Marion County Magistrate Judge Danny

O. Barker II. denied bond for a Marion man arrested for the murder of a missing 80-year old woman Thursday.

Dominique Davonah Brand, 29, of Marion, is charged with murder, kidnapping, possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. He appeared in front of the magistrate and members of the victim’s family.

“This is one of the most heinous crimes that I have experienced,” Barker said. “I find that you are a danger to this community.” Brand was arrested Wednesday on charges of kidnapping and murder of 80-year-old Mary Ann Elvington. Her body was located

in the Zion community Monday after a search that started after she was reported missing out of Horry County Sunday. Her white 2012 Buick LaCrosse was found unoccupied at a location on Bobby

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# Randall State resigns as Marion’s football coach

**SCOTT CHANCEY**  
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MARION, S.C. – Randall State confirmed to the Morning News on Monday that he has resigned as Marion High School’s football coach after guiding the Swamp Foxes to last fall’s SCHSL Class 2A state runner-up finish. State had no further comment.

In December, State was named the Morning News Football Coach of the Year. After Marion won one game in 2018 when State was an assistant, the Swamp Foxes barely missed the next postseason in 2019, his first season as coach. In 2020, Marion went 7-2 in a pandemic season full of its own set of chal-

lenges before losing 37-6 in the state final to Abbeville. But the Swamp Foxes also won their first lower-state crown since 1987. “We were just determined to not be losing like we had been,” State told the Morning News in December. “We were determined to make a difference this year.”

On July 1, the Marion County School District halted conditioning because of the pandemic, and the Swamp Foxes did not resume until Sept. 9. “It became a matter of them having to do things on their own, and that made them who they are now,” State said in December. “And once we came back together

as a team, we really came back together as a team.”

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## Re-Elect Mayor Ashley Brady...A Proven Leader Creating Opportunities for GROWTH in Marion

- Improving Storm Water system to reduce flooding. We have completed nearly a dozen stormwater projects; purchased a new vacuum truck to clear storm drains and a mini-excavator for drain repair.
- Prioritizing public safety. As Mayor I have secured increased funding for the Fire and Police Departments and continue to work to get more police officers on the street to protect your homes and families.
- Expanding public services for businesses and families. Purchased 2 new grapple trucks to allow for more frequent removal of yard debris; secured funds to upgrade water and sewer treatment plant; purchased a new track hoe for City landfill.
- Beautifying our hometown. We have completed road paving projects.; funded new public restrooms at Main Street Commons; demolished abandoned buildings and added new digital billboards.



Thank you for your support!  
 Ashley, Rebecca, Haley, Lexie & Laura

Re-Elect  
**Ashley Brady**  
 for  
**MAYOR**  
 CITY OF MARION  
 Creating Opportunities for Growth

**VOTE APRIL 13**  
 or in advance  
 absentee ballot

Paid for by Ashley Brady for Mayor, P.O. Box 1212, Marion, SC 29571