



February
20 - 26
2025

Volume 6 Issue 68

The Woodruff Times



Mrs. Dot page 4

Woodruff Prepares to Welcome New Spring Fling Festival

By: Tracy Sanders, Co:Editor
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WOODRUFF, SC— A fresh spring celebration is on the horizon for the City of Woodruff, poised to fill the gap left by Spartanburg’s canceled event. Slated to kick off at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 with setup beginning around 10:00

“We wanted to give families a chance to enjoy a festive atmosphere close to home,” said Woodruff City Manager Lee Bailey. “With Spartanburg not holding their Spring Fling, this seemed like a great opportunity to showcase Woodruff’s charm and hospitality.”
While details on the live music

Local businesses are preparing to welcome the influx of visitors, with some planning to offer sidewalk seating and special promotions. Organizers are hopeful that the new downtown parking lot will be finished

City of Woodruff
SPRING FLING
SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
MAIN STREET
JOIN US FOR:
• 40+ VENDORS
• BOUNCE HOUSES
• CARNIVAL RIDES
• LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING
• TOUCH-A-TRUCK
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*ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE!
Ryan Homes

“Vendors are still being added daily, as well as musical acts and events geared toward children.”
...City of Woodruff Events Team

a.m., this lively festival will close Main Street from First Citizens Bank to Georgia Street. Plans include food trucks, carnival rides, and a Touch-a-Truck display, giving kids a chance to see everything from fire trucks to 18-wheelers up close.

lineup are still being finalized, the City of Woodruff Events Team shared the following statement with The Woodruff Times:
“Vendors are still being added daily, as well as musical acts and events geared toward children.”

in time, but attendees can also utilize parking areas around City Hall, the library, and nearby shopping centers. The Woodruff Times will be providing additional updates in our upcoming issues as more information

becomes available from the city and local businesses participating in the festival. For those interested in performing or setting up as a vendor, email events@cityofwoodruff.com.

Duke Energy Strengthens Power Grid in Woodruff with Major Upgrades

By: Vareva Harris, Co-Editor
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Woodruff, SC – Duke Energy is making significant investments throughout Woodruff to enhance power reliability, reduce outages, and prepare the electrical grid for future growth. The company’s ongoing infrastructure improvements aim to make the system more resilient against severe weather and support the area’s expanding energy needs. According to Duke Energy, the project involves upgrading or replacing overhead power lines and constructing new ones to address reliability concerns, expand capacity, and integrate smart technology.

continued to page 3

Weather February 20 - 26

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
42° 17°	48° 25°	53° 29°	56° 31°	60° 38°	67° 38°	66° 43°

Woodruff Demolishes Walhalla in First Round of Basketball Play-offs



Woodruff junior guard Kori Moates scores and is fouled during Tuesday's first round playoff victory over Walhalla (photo courtesy of Like Mother Like Daughter Photography)

By: Garrett Mitchell, Staff Writer
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The Woodruff boys' basketball team put on a clinic in front of the home fans Tuesday night, dismantling Walhalla 66-28 in the first round of the 3A play-offs.

The Wolverines led wire to wire, built an 18-3 lead after one quarter, and at one point in the first half led 31-3 in a thoroughly dominating effort.

Junior big man Grayson Patterson started the scoring with two free throws, followed right behind by consecutive three-pointers by Hunter West and T.J. Morris, respectively, and the rout was on. The Razorbacks had little answer for the Wolverines' speed and physicality, with Woodruff forcing numerous turnovers, which they converted to easy points on the other end of the court.

Woodruff took a 38-13 lead into halftime and a 49-23 margin into the

fourth quarter. The Wolverines outscored the Razorbacks 17-5 in the final period. Sophomore Aiden Gibson provided one of the best highlights of the evening in the decisive fourth quarter with a steal and one-handed slam dunk that brought the Wolverines' faithful to their feet in a raucous roar.

It was also an equal opportunity beatdown by Woodruff.

All 12 players on the roster scored, but nobody scored in double figures, a stunning stat given the 66 points the Wolverines put on the scoreboard. Patterson and senior John Carter Murphy led the way with nine points each. Dre Jenkins added eight, and Jackson McCarley contributed seven points, eight rebounds, and three steals in the best game of the season for the junior forward.

Woodruff outrebounded Walhalla 39-32 and recorded 18 steals.

Eight Wolverine Wrestlers Qualify for State Tournament

By: Garrett Mitchell, Staff Writer
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Eight Woodruff wrestlers qualified for the state tournament on Saturday, February 15, at the upper-state qualifier at West Oak High School.

The six Wolverine grapplers will move on to the state tournament coming up this Saturday and will have a chance to win individual state championships.

Six boys and two female wrestlers will vie for titles.

With the top eight wrestlers in each weight class advancing to the state tournament, the following

Woodruff boys made the cut:

Landon Butler (157) finished second, Brandon Sellars (150) third, Josh Mulak (165) third, CJ Smith (126) fourth, Braden Mulak (138) fifth, and D'Yonnee Hall (215) seventh.

On the girls' side, Rachel Hayes (120) and Tylar Smith (120) will wrestle for titles.

The state tournament will be held on Saturday, February 22, at the Florence Civic Center in Florence, SC.



Landon Butler (photo courtesy of Like Mother Like Daughter Photography)

The Woodruff Times

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Duke Power
from front page

These enhancements will strengthen the grid against potential outages while enabling a transition to cleaner, more efficient energy solutions.

Residents in Woodruff can expect to see large construction equipment in the area for the next several weeks, including utility bucket trucks, digging and pole-setting machinery, and large spools of electric line. Some areas will require the installation of new utility poles or the replacement of

existing ones.

Crews will be working along the power line easement, with some projects requiring access to backyards and private property. The improvements span from the new Woodruff High School along Highway 101 to the new BMW facility, covering several miles of backroads in between.

These infrastructure upgrades are part of Duke Energy’s broader initiative to modernize the power grid, ensuring a more reliable and efficient energy system for Woodruff and surrounding communities.



Crews working on power lines in Woodruff (Photo by Vareva Harris)

The Woodruff Times

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Answers to sudoku will be in next weeks newspaper.

Feb. 21
National
Sticky
Bun Day

answers for last weeks crossword puzzle

R	A	H		P	A	S	S		H	S	I	A
O	B	O		E	V	O	E		I	T	A	L
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VETERAN’S MEMORIAL
at McKinney Park | Woodruff, SC

Our purpose is to honor our local veterans and the local community by designing, constructing, and taking all ordinary and necessary measures to preserve in perpetuity a veterans memorial in the City of Woodruff.

Woodruff Veterans Memorial is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit. To make a donation or to learn more visit <https://wdfvets.org/>

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High on LIFE SPOTLIGHT ON MINNIE WESTMORELAND SMITH



By: Karen WeHunt Harden,
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Who is this endearing colorful character, this humorous storyteller, a walking talking encyclopedia (abridged)?

Minnie Westmoreland Smith will be eighty-three years old in June. She had two older brothers and four younger brothers. As a young girl, her mother, Edna said, "I never wanted but two children, and I wanted them to be boys." When Minnie came along she "failed to thrive" for many reasons. After Minnie, four more boys were born. "Mama had a 7th grade education and her Daddy made her quit school to farm because she could get the mules and horses to plow straight." Later

on, their Mama was a weaver and went back to work as soon as possible after each boy was born. As Minnie grew, "Mama started taking me to town all dressed up. My doll collection actually belonged to Mama. She wouldn't let me do much because I was a girl, except she let me be in school plays, dramas, and sing in choirs."

Minnie raised Baby Bill until she went off to Winthrop. "I weighed ninety-five pounds and was scared to death I could not make it in college." Mama prided herself in "Giving her children all the education they could take." Mama immersed herself in our genealogy and we were very proud of her research. She introduced everyone as cousin so and so.

Minnie's favorite time to

remember was Christmas. "Mama would decorate a freshly cut tree with ivory soap snow and we would finish decorating with Inge-Glas ornaments and drape fragrant branches across the mantle."

Her scarcest times were when she heard her Mama retell the hail storm of August, 1929 story. Quoting Edna, "It started as we were playing in the street. We hurried inside to weather the storm. Later Pa loaded the family up to go see where the crops had been beaten down and the livestock was killed or blinded. The golf ball size hail was so fierce it broke out all the windows in the Mills Mill Village." Millie said,

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Mrs. Dot Honored With a Surprise Birthday Celebration



Mrs. Dot and her daughters Lady Tonya Smith, Evangelist Karen Garrett

By: Vareva Harris, Co-Editor
vareva@thewoodrufftimes.com

Woodruff's own Dorothy Higgins Bennett, lovingly known as "Mrs. Dot," was recently honored with a surprise birthday celebration, surrounded by family, friends, and members of her beloved community. The event was filled with joy, gospel singing, and heartfelt moments as loved ones gathered to show

appreciation for a woman who has spent a lifetime giving to others.

Born and raised in Woodruff, Mrs. Dot is a cornerstone of faith and family. She has been one of the

longest-serving members of Lanford Grove Holiness Church, where she has served as a deaconess under Senior Pastor Rev. Deborah Williams. Her faith and dedication to prayer have made her a guiding light for her loved ones. Beaming with joy by her side were Yamel, Wanda Jeter, and Pam Brown, her daughters Lady Tonya Smith and Evangelist Karen

Garrett, her grandchildren Porchee, Kalen, Galen, and Antwone, her great-grandchildren Decha, Antwone Jr., Jamarrian, and Malachi, as well as her brothers James Higgins and Tim Waters, along with a host of relatives and friends.

Mrs. Dot's love for gospel music radiated throughout the church as she enjoyed the high praise and worshipful atmosphere created by various gospel groups, including Pastor Happy Feet and Family, Mae's Mix Choir, The Gospel Prophets, Nancy Anointed Voices, Carolina Boys, and the Voices of Harmony. Family and friends presented her with gifts and heartfelt expressions of love, making her birthday celebration one to remember.

Reflecting on the special day, Mrs. Dot expressed her gratitude: "They did a real good job. I enjoyed seeing my family and friends who came from far and near to celebrate with me. The outpouring of love I

felt in this community was very special. I was very surprised to see everyone."

She and her family extended a special thank you to Rev. Hardy and Lanford Grove Holiness Church for opening their doors for the celebration, as well as to the Master of Ceremonies, Pastor Darrell Smith and Apostle Patrick Garrett, Ajeshia Duncan for the beautiful birthday balloon arch, and Pastor Malcolm Long for setting up the sound system.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Dot has served the Woodruff community in many ways, through her church, volunteering at the voter polls, and service in Spartanburg School District Four schools. Her love for people and commitment to uplifting others have left a lasting impact on those around her.

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Lady Wolverines Rout Crescent in First Round of Basketball Play-offs

By: Garrett Mitchell, Staff Writer
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The Woodruff Lady Wolverines' basketball team flexed their offensive firepower in a first-round rout of the Crescent Tigers to open the class 3A playoffs on Monday night.

Woodruff was led by three players in double figures, with junior Jordan Robinson scoring a game-high 17

points on their way to a 70-39 victory, their second-highest scoring output this season.

The Lady Wolverines were fast out of the gate, scoring twice in 10 seconds to start the game on a Robinson lay-up, then a steal and score from Jensyn Turner. Robinson hit the first of her two three-pointers moments later, and Woodruff would build a 17-0 lead before Crescent would score.

Taking a commanding 23-6 lead into the second quarter, the Lady Tigers would rally and trim the Woodruff lead to nine midways through the second period, but it would be as close as Crescent would get the rest of the night despite putting up a game fight. The Lady Wolverines led



Jensyn Turner #1 (photo courtesy of Like Mother Like Daughter Photography)

31-21 at the half but would quickly increase the margin in the second half.

Woodruff scored 20 more points in the third and 39 total points in the second half to pull away. That included a decisive 19-4 scoring margin in the fourth quarter. The Lady Wolverines would knock down 10 three-pointers, one off their season-high as a team, including three long balls from Sadie Burnette, who leads the entire state of South Carolina with 86 made three-point shots in 25 games.

Burnette and Turner each scored

15 to join Robinson in double figures, and senior Kara West added eight points, five rebounds, two steals, and two blocks. Jasmine McKnight led all rebounders with nine. Of the Lady Wolverines' 12 players, 10 scored.

As a team, Woodruff outrebounded Crescent 37-25 and tallied 19 steals, 20 assists on 26 made baskets, and six blocked shots in the all-around team effort.

The Lady Wolverines improved their record to 21-5 on the season.



Kara West #0 (photo courtesy of Like Mother Like Daughter Photography)

Meet Your First Responders: Trinity Fire Department

The Woodruff Times is featuring a member of the Trinity Fire Department in an effort for the citizens of Woodruff to meet and get to know the first responders who help keep our community safe. Each issue will feature a bio of a Trinity-Hobbsville Fire Station firefighter. This month's profile is Nate Gardin.

-Name- Nate Gardin
-Position- Firefighter
-Where are you from- Union, South Carolina

-How many years have you been a first responder- 6 years
-Why did you want to become a first responder?
"From the time I could walk I was at the fire department with my dad. I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a firefighter."
-What is your favorite part of the job?
"Helping serve my community and knowing I am a role model to my daughter."



Nate Gardin Firefighter (Photo courtesy of Nate Gardin)

New Prospect Baptist Church Enoree Annual Calendar of Activities

~YEARLY EVENTS~

January	3 rd Sunday: Usher's Anniversary
February	4 th Sunday: Black History
February	4 th Sunday: Youth Choir Anniversary
March	3 rd Sunday: Men's Day
April	4 th Sunday: Gospel Choir Anniversary
May	1 st Sunday: Church Anniversary
May	3 rd Sunday: Women's Day
June	2 nd week: Vacation Bible School
June	4 th Sunday: Youth Day
July	2 nd Sunday: Pastor's Anniversary
August	3 rd Sunday: Homecoming/Revival
October	3 rd Sunday: Friends & Family Day
December	3 rd Sunday: Christmas Program

Obituaries



Joyce "Elaine" Barnette Davis

Joyce "Elaine" Barnette Davis Mann of Eden Terrace, Spartanburg, SC, went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on February 14, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

She was a woman of great faith and courage and loved first her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, her family, her friends, and her church. Elaine lived life to the fullest, enjoying each day the Lord granted her, and was grateful for the many, many blessings that were bestowed upon her. She had a compassionate love for people, never meeting a stranger, and cherished her role as a wife, mother, and grandmother. Her

vibrant personality, warm smile, and giving spirit will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Born January 26, 1937, in Woodruff, SC, she was the daughter of the late John Clifford and Viola Harrelson Barnette also of Woodruff.

Elaine attended the Woodruff schools, graduating from Woodruff High School in May 1955. She was a

graduate of Cecil's Business College and later attended Spartanburg Technical College. She was voted most outstanding student in the 7th grade and received the Trudy Reimer Citizenship Award.

Elaine loved her church family. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Spartanburg and used her gift of a beautiful voice to worship the Lord, singing in the Sanctuary Choir and the Yesterday's Teens Choir. She was a member of the Gowdy, Mann, Ward Sunday School Class and The Young at Heart, worked with the 2nd grade Children's Choir, served on various committees, and participated in many Bible Studies and other

activities.

She was employed by the Church for ten years as a secretary to the Reverend Sal Barone, Minister of Pastoral Ministries, and Senior Adults. Elaine also served as receptionist and switchboard operator. Prior to working at First Baptist Church, she was employed by Arkwright Mills for 17 years as a receptionist and purchasing agent.

Elaine considered her most important job as being a loyal, loving wife and mother to her two children, Steven and Kristen, and was very involved with their activities in School District Six. She cherished every moment spent with her grandchildren and was affectionately known by them as "E-Mom." She enjoyed cooking and entertaining for family and friends.

Elaine had a love for gardening, especially roses, and enjoyed growing and caring for them in her beautiful rose garden at her previous residence. She was a member of the Fairforest Garden Club, where she served as President.

Elaine was predeceased by her beloved first husband, Charles Alfred Davis of Fairforest, SC, who she met in October of 1958 and married on March 6, 1959.

God brought a wonderful man, James "Jim" Neal Mann of Spartanburg, SC, into her life, who she married on April 17, 2010, in the First Baptist Church chapel.

She is survived by a sister, Cheryl Ann Brock of Woodruff, SC, son Steven Charles Davis (Meg) of Abbeville, SC, daughter Kristen Elaine Davis Welch (Nelson), two grandsons, Charles "Davis" Welch and Charles "Chas" Nelson Welch, a granddaughter, Haley Kristen Welch all of Spartanburg, and a number of

nieces and nephews, three step-sons, Jeff Mann (Kathy), Ray Mann (Chris) of Spartanburg, SC and Vince Mann (Janice) of Southern Pines, North Carolina, six step-grandchildren, Neil Mann, Victoria Cato, Alastair, Elon and Grayson Mann and Blake Mann of Spartanburg, S.C., and three step great-children Henry, Michael and Grace Cato of Spartanburg, SC.

She was pre-deceased by a brother, Kenneth Hugh Barnette of Woodruff, SC.

A celebration of her life was held Thursday, February 20 at 1:30 pm in the First Baptist Church sanctuary, 250 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC. with Dr. Donald J. Wilton and Rev. Sal Barone officiating. Burial followed in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens 1300 Fernwood-Glendale Road, Spartanburg. Pallbearers were Steven Davis, Nelson Welch, Davis Welch, Chas Welch, Greg Brock, David Brock, Greg Miller, and Lorantz Bogan. Honorary pallbearers will be Jeff Mann, Ray Mann, Vince Mann, and Howard Miller. Honorary escorts will be members of the Gowdy, Mann, Ward Sunday School Class and the Fairforest Garden Club. The family will receive friends from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials were made to the First Baptist Church Bridge Ministry or Music Ministry, 250 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306, Family Hospice 1312 Augusta Street, Greenville, SC 29605, or the Eden Terrace Employee Fund, 2780 East Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29307.

The J.F. Floyd Mortuary were in charge. The family was at the home of Nelson and Kristen Davis Welch.

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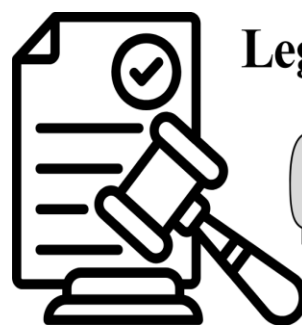
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Minnie Smith from page 4

“Every time a bad cloud came up, Mama freaked out. She had us be quiet and sit down until it passed. Mama always included in her story, “W. B. Westmoreland lost his fortune because he lost his all crops and he had to pay for the leased horses and mules that were destroyed.” Minnie said, “The good that came out of it was the mill’s carpenters installed screens and storm doors for all the houses in the mill village.”

Minnie is most proud of “Still being above ground, living in my own home, and doing what I want to do even though my short-term memory is not as good as my long-

term memory. I went into a line of work pioneering Special Education in the 1960s and taught school for thirty years. I found the good in my students – their talent and encouraged them on their level even if I had to lay my head down on a student’s desk with them” to get and keep their attention. The greatest lesson she learned was through observation. She had a student to ask, “Why do you get so upset about every fart and fizzle?” Minnie learned “Life is too short to keep your panties in a wad.”

The saddest time in her life began when her husband, Gerald, developed Alzheimer’s. She stopped singing and after retiring in 1995, she virtually stopped talking. Before this, her voice was strong and has now faded. Minnie is understandable because she practices and exercises her voice by saying vowels distinctly

and dramatically.

Her hobbies include reading and following the clean comedians on Dry Bar Comedy from Salt Lake City, Utah. She is looking forward to “Watching as her great-great nephew, Rylan, grows up.”

Minnie’s advice to young people is, “Don’t join in with the crowd. They will lead you astray. Pay attention and do your best. Take your time falling in love and have lots of similar goals in common.”

Minnie’s greatest fear is to be buried alive – to have dirt on her face. As a child, her brothers and other boys tormented her by trying to smother her. She has pre-paid her cremation and wishes her ashes to be put in a zip bag and placed into Baby Bill’s grave.

Minnie is open, warm, amusing, has a quick wit, and a clear sharp mind. She has a remarkable recall of



Picture of Minnie 1/7/25 (photo courtesy of Karyn Page-Davies)

people’s names and our local history. She wants to be remembered as a “colorful character” which will be easy for all who know and love her.

Mrs. Dot from page 4

to faith, love, and community. As she often says, “A family that prays together stays together.”

Her family, friends, and community are grateful for her



Family and friends celebrate Mrs. Dot

A woman of grace and style, Mrs. Dot believes in always looking her best. “My mother [Annie Pearl Higgins Franks] and grandmother [Pastor Lula Higgins Stevens] always dressed nice. I think it’s nice to look nice—it makes me feel good about myself. When you look good, you feel better about yourself,” she shared.

Mrs. Dot deeply cherishes her hometown, appreciating its close-knit, family-oriented spirit and embracing the growth it has seen over the years. Her life is a testament

unwavering love, wisdom, and prayers. Mrs. Dot, we celebrate you and the beautiful life you continue to live!

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Creation of Negro History Week (1925–1926)
Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925.

The first official celebration took place in February 1926, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation’s bicentennial.

Friends of Ambazonia Seek U.S. Support at Trump Inauguration

By Vareva Harris, Co-Editor
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On January 20, 2025, as thousands of people from around the world gathered in Washington, D.C., to witness the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump, a delegation from the Friends of Ambazonia stood among them with a singular mission: to bring their struggle for independence to the attention of the new U.S. administration.

Hailing from the English-speaking regions of Cameroon, now referred to as “Ambazonia”, the group hoped that President Trump’s focus on peace, respect for National sovereignty, and international diplomacy could offer them a path toward recognition and self-determination. They sat down with The Woodruff Times, one of the many media outlets covering the diverse reasons people attend U.S. presidential inaugurations, to share their hopes for their homeland.

“We believe that if President Trump acknowledges our sovereignty, it would be a major step toward resolving the conflict in our land,” Dr. Tita Emmanuel. “With independence, we could be a strong ally of the United States and use our natural resources to rebuild our schools, infrastructure, and the thriving culture we once enjoyed,” Dorothy Ngwa.

The Ambazonian struggle for independence dates back to colonial times when Cameroon was divided between British and French control. Following World War I, Germany lost Cameroon as a colony, and the League of Nations split the territory between Britain and France. The British-controlled Southern Cameroon, which later became Ambazonia, was governed separately from French Cameroon.

In 1961, a controversial United Nations plebiscite forced Southern Cameroon to choose between joining either Nigeria or the newly independent Republic of Cameroon. Despite appeals for full independence, Southern Cameroon was pressured into unification with French Cameroon under a federal system that was later dismantled in 1972, leading to decades of political and economic marginalization.

For years, English-speaking Cameroonians have faced systemic discrimination, with their legal and educational systems steadily eroded by the Francophone-dominated government in Yaoundé. Protests against these injustices were met with violent crackdowns in 2016, sparking an armed conflict between Ambazonians and Cameroonian security forces.

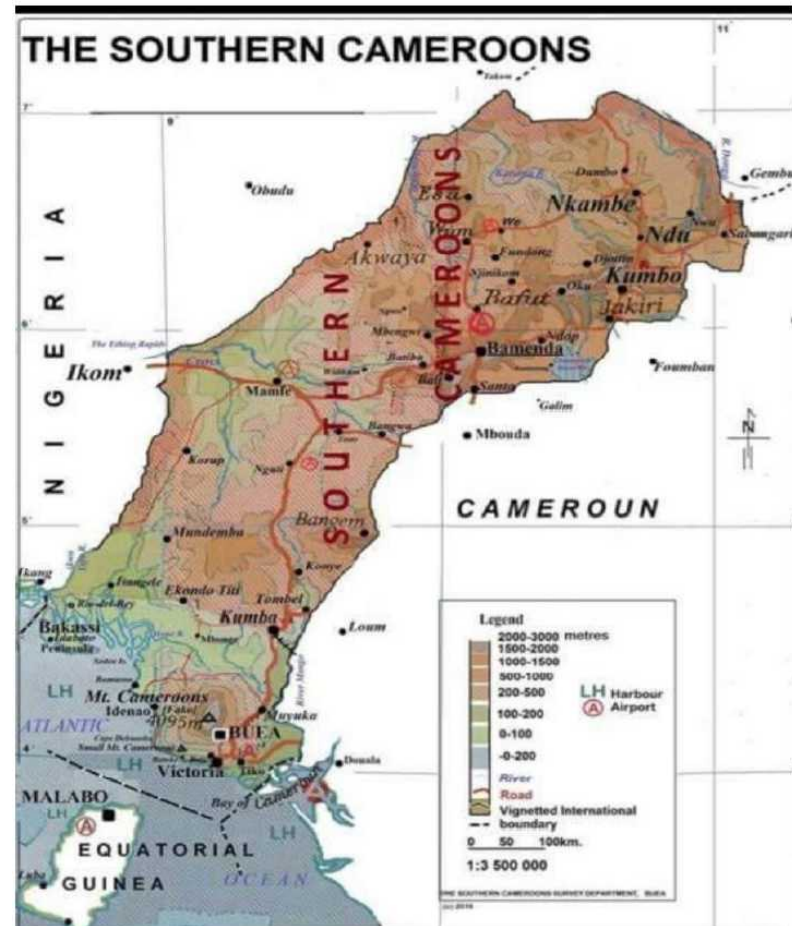
Since 2017, the conflict in Cameroon has escalated into a humanitarian crisis, with over 6,000 deaths and more than 1.5 million people displaced according to a Human Rights report. Villages have been burned, civilians have been

massacred, and access to education has been severely disrupted. Dr. Emmanuel Tita emphatically criticized the “at least 6,000 killed” stating, “the number of murders by the military are grossly underreported. Over 60,000 lives have been lost, more than 850 villages reduced to ashes BY THE MILITARY, over 15,000 illegally detained, and over 500,000 seeking refuge far from home.” While international organizations have condemned the violence, a lasting resolution remains elusive.

The Friends of Ambazonia hope that the Trump administration would take notice of their plight and support their cause on the global stage.

“We know the United States values freedom and democracy,” one delegate stated. “If America stands with us, the world will listen,” Rev. Dr. Victor Mbah.

With optimism, the Ambazonian delegation left Washington with high hopes even more committed to elevating their cause to President Trump and his administration. The group remains determined to raise awareness and seek international recognition. Their presence at the inauguration symbolized not just hope, but also resilience in the face of adversity. As the conflict in Cameroon continues, Ambazonians both at home and abroad continue to push for the right to self-determination, believing that one day, their voices will be heard.



This map was provided in documentation received from Friends of Ambazonia.



Pictured: Delegation members present, The Friends of Ambazonia-Rev. Dr. Victor Mbah, Dr. Emmanuel Tita, Dr. K.B.Stallworth, Dorothy Ngwa, and Dr. Richard Mbih (picture by The Woodruff Times)

Editor’s Note: We are republishing this article to address a disagreement in the reported number of deaths. Previously, a human rights organization estimated approximately 6,000 deaths, while primary source believes the figure to be closer to 60,000. We have updated the story with both perspectives.