



News & Press

TWO SECTIONS • 14 PAGES

DECEMBER 13, 2017

ESTABLISHED 1874

QUOTE

'All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.'

EDMUND BURKE

75¢

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County moves ahead on \$300 million solar project

By Samantha Lyles
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Darlington County Council convened their regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 4, and forwarded two ordinances related to a potential \$300 million investment in solar energy.

Council held a public hearing and second reading for Ordinance 17-17, which would offer FILOT (Fee In Lieu Of Tax) agreements with an unnamed company involved in a solar energy

development plan code named "Project Dates." The ordinance extract states that "many solar projects are looking at South Carolina," and the "conversion of agricultural property to solar property can produce significant increases in property tax revenue." The extract also states that the unnamed company has represented that incentives are critical to their locating in Darlington County.

The company has assured Darlington County that a series of expenditures total-

ing over \$300 million will be invested in 17 different solar power facilities before December 31 of 2022. Tax map searches for properties named in Project Dates show several small parcels and several large parcels scattered across multiple locations throughout the county.

Related to this, Council also passed second reading for Ordinance 17-18, enlarging the boundaries of the Darlington-Florence Industrial Park to include property owned or operated

by Project Dates.

Council approved final reading for Ordinance 17-16, altering the boundaries of the Darlington/Lee County Joint Industrial Park to include property owned by Fiber Industries to allow the county to grant Special Source Revenue Credits it promised to Fiber Industries in August of 2017. The ordinance also allows the allocation of 1-percent revenues to Lee County as a park partner.



At the Dec. 4 meeting of Darlington County Council, chair Bobby Hudson (left) presented retired Emergency Management director Woodrow "Mac" McDonald with a plaque commemorating his 25 years of service to the county

COUNTY ON 3A



Lt. Col. Bryan Pipkin was recently awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the United States Army.

Contributed Photo

Darlington guardsman receives two service medals

By Samantha Lyles
Staff Writer
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When Darlington citizen Bryan Pipkin joined the South Carolina Army National Guard, he only intended to serve long enough to pay for his college education. Little did he know that he was embarking on a career that would span three decades, take him around the world, and allow him to earn several prestigious accolades for his work.

"I ended up having a career out of something that was only supposed to last four or five years," says Pipkin, who has put in 31 years of military service, earned a master's degree, and - as of this month - won the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

Most recently deployed to the Washington D.C. area as part of Operation Noble Eagle (a strategic homeland defense initiative begun by President George W. Bush in 2001), Pipkin also served from January of 2004 to January of 2005 in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a battle captain, assistant operations officer, and convoy commander in several locations, including Nasiriyah and Baghdad.

"We ran a lot of gun truck missions and supported humanitarian missions. We helped the locals with medical supplies and services, clothing, backpacks. For the kids and adults that didn't have health care, we would try to go out and help them when we weren't running Army missions," says Pipkin, whose road patrols ranged from Baghdad to Kuwait.

When possible, Pipkin says he and his fellow soldiers tried to visit some of the area's historical sites, such as the Ziggurat of Ur, the Tigris River, Babylon, and the legendary lion's den where the prophet Daniel faced an epic test of faith.

In 2014, he transferred from field artillery to air defense artillery and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. In August of 2016, he was deployed to D.C. as part of Operation Noble Eagle and served there for a year. Pipkin was a tactical director for the 678 ADA Brigade responsible for command and control of the ground-based air defense assets in the nation's capitol region. A necessarily secretive operation, Pipkin can't say much about Noble Eagle, but he provided briefings to senior leaders like Gen. Lori Robinson, Commander of US NORTHCOM and NORAD.

After he returned home, within the span of a few months, Pipkin received both the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal for performance, excellence in leadership, and technical and tactical expertise.

"I wound up getting two medals, one from the Air Force and one from the Army, and that doesn't typically happen," says Pipkin. "It was either through luck or hard work, one or the other."

Home now as a regular citizen soldier, Pipkin works with Duke Energy. He began there as a technician in 1996 and has worked his way up to a position as a senior technician/job sponsor. He says he is very grateful to Duke for their commitment to him and other National Guard and Reserve service members, as the company has been very patient and understanding about the time they require for their training and deployments.

Pipkin says now that his military obligations aren't taking him away from home so much, he plans to take a more active role in the community, perhaps by running for local office and continuing what has become a lifelong habit of service.

Southwest Stormwater Project bid approved

By Melissa Rollins
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The Southwest Storm Project is moving forward in Darlington after a vote Dec. 5 during the Darlington City Council meeting. Council voted 5 to 2 with councilmen John Milling and John Segars voted against the motion to approve a \$2.5 million dollar bid from Landsdown Earth and Pipe.

City administration put the project out for bid twice, both times receiving bids well above the amount they had allotted to complete the work. Councilmen Milling, Segars and Bryant Gardner all have expressed concern over the amount of money being spent. Those concerns were reiterated in a fashion during the December meeting, especially after council was informed that the city would be dependent on funds from the state, promised by Senator Gerald Malloy and Representative Robert

Williams, to make their allotted funds meet the \$2.5 million bid price.

"At this time, we do not have the money to complete the entire project," said City Manager Howard Garland. "However, we've been given assurances from our state representative Robert Williams, who is going to be on the Ways and Means Committee next year, which is a very powerful seat and it controls money, that he's going to help us fund this project also. It would be the staff recommendation that we move ahead with the Southwest Darlington Stormwater Project, spending the money that we have on hand."

PROJECT ON 3A



Darlington City Councilman Coleman Cannon received a key to the city from Mayor Gloria Hines at his last council meeting Dec. 5.

Girls explore coding and computer programming at DCIT

By Melissa Rollins
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More than 30 girls got a first-hand look at computer programming Dec. 7 during a special Hour of Code themed Girl Scouts meeting at DCIT.

Hour of Code is an annual nation-wide event that strives to expose students to the world of computer coding using games such as Minecraft. During the Pizza and Programming meeting, the girls played games, made bracelets using binary code and, of course, enjoyed pizza. Two of DCIT's information technology teachers, Sandra White and Latricia Jackson, led the sessions.

Aurelia Burgess, Assistant Director at DCIT and a vol-

unteer with Girl Scouts, said that the event was meant to spark some interest in young girls who may see computer programming and related fields as only open to their male peers.

"Ms. White had been doing Hour of Code for years but only with her students," Burgess said. "We said that we needed to branch out and be able to reach other students. Since I also happen to be a Girl Scout volunteer, we decided to do it with the girls."

Burgess said that this event could plant a seed of interest for these girls when it comes to classes that they take in the future.

"We are hoping that these will be our future game design and computer programming students," Burgess said. "For some of them that might be four years from now, since they are in sixth grade, but some of them are ninth and tenth grade so they can actually take the class next year."



Young girls learn about coding and how computer commands make their favorite computer games work. PHOT BY MELISSA ROLLINS

During one session, the girls learned about binary code and how the computer uses that information to fol-

low prompts that users put it. They used colored beads and pipe cleaners to spell their first initial in binary

code. They also used a caterpillar STEM (Science Technology Engineering and

Mathematics) toy to learn about coding. The students had to decide which directional instruction to give the caterpillar and figure out where the caterpillar would end up on the floor based on those instructions.

While half of the students were busy with coding and binary bracelets, others were using the Hour of Code website to explore ways that the computer games they use at home read coding to move characters and follow commands.

Instructor Latricia Jackson said that she was excited to be using Hour of Code for the first time. She said that she was interested to use it in her classes at DCIT and hoped to one day see some of the girls from the Girl Scout meeting in her classes.

"My game design classes are filled with boys so I am hoping to get a few more girls," Jackson said. "Girls feel like only guys can do gaming but these girls are having fun."



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opinion

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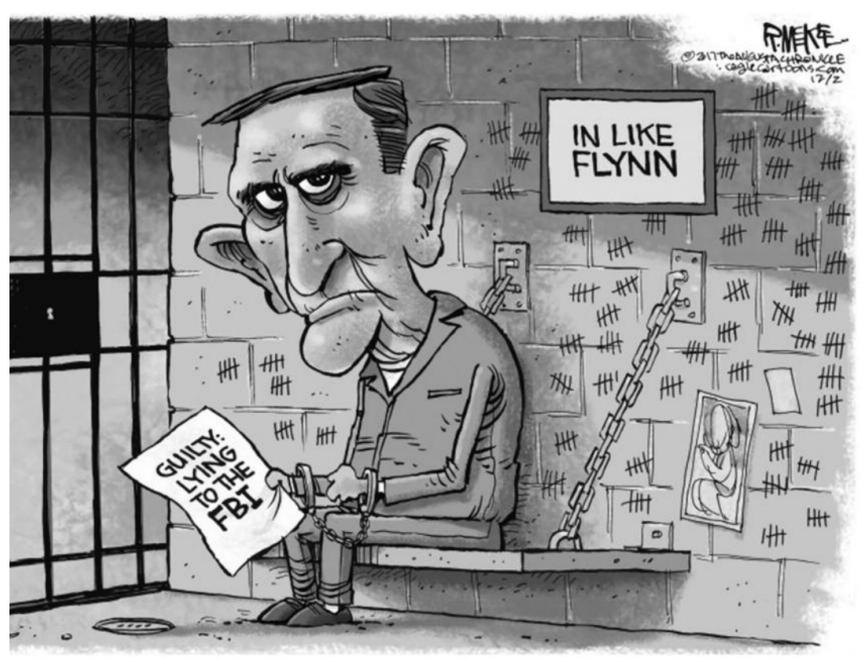
Word of the Week

maudlin 1 : drunk enough to be emotionally silly
2 : weakly and effusively sentimental

Merriam-Webster.com

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THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.



OP-ED

Managing plant pests responsibly

By Terasa Lott, Clemson University

Gardening in South Carolina can be quite challenging, no matter the season. Each summer, I keep my fingers crossed that we get a decent squash harvest before the squash vine borers decimate the plants. The greens in the winter garden are a favorite food of several caterpillars so I must keep a watchful eye on the collards and kale.

While it's important to observe for insect pests, it's also important to realize that only three percent of insects worldwide are known to be pests. That means ninety-seven percent are beneficial or simply co-exist with humans, causing no harm. Nature has its own system of checks and balances that can be thrown out of whack by human actions. Here are some tips for preventing and managing pests in an environmentally responsible manner.

- Think Before You Plant

Some plants are more prone to pests than other. For example, Indian Hawthorne is prone to a fungal leaf spot. Select plants that don't have many pest problems and in some cases, are pest-resistant. Keeping your plants healthy will also make them less susceptible to pest problems.

- Learn The "Good Guys"

Beneficial insects and mites can be predators, parasitoids, or pollinators. Parasitoids and predators play an important role in controlling the "bad guys" and pollinators transfer pollen, which is essential for the production of seeds and fruit in many plant species. Encouraging beneficials can help maintain that natural system of checks and balances in your yard.

- Identify The Problem

It's imperative you identify your pest correctly. First, to ensure it is actually a pest and second, to select the most appropriate control.

- Use Non-Chemical Approaches And Least Toxic Pesticides When Appropriate

Some pest problems may be resolved without chemicals. There were a few large hornworms on my tomatoes this year that were easy to hand pick. If chemicals are needed, select insecticidal soaps, horticultural oils, and Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) products when appropriate.

- Avoid Routine Applications

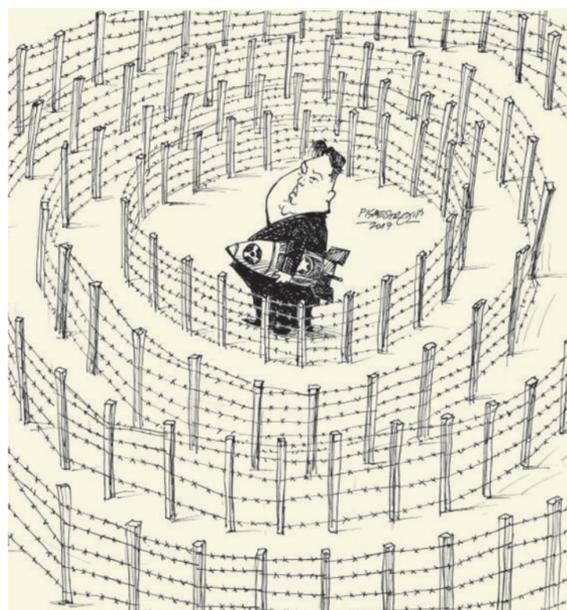
Spot treating affected plants rather than using blanket applications can reduce the amount of pesticides used and decrease the chance of pests developing resistance.

- The Label Is The Law

Be sure to read and follow pesticide label instructions for safe use and disposal. The label is the law.

Clemson Extension's Master Gardener program can help you learn about all aspects of gardening from soil to pruning to pest management. The 2018 class will meet each Monday, January 22 through April 23 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. For more information about the program or to register, visit clemson.edu/extension/mg.

Terasa Lott is a Water Resources Agent for the Clemson Extension and an Assistant State Coordinator for the SC Master Gardener Program.



OP-ED

Down By The Catawba River

By Tom Poland

Driving north on US 21 toward a "very small town," I watch the land change. Hills rise into view. Large rocks protrude from the ground. Boulders. I'm passing over land where hard crystalline basement rock meets softer sedimentary rock. I'm leaving the coastal plain for the piedmont. The juncture of these two zones creates the Fall Line. Great Falls sits on it and I'm headed that way.

I drove around and through Great Falls several times, that town down by the Catawba River. The day was cloudy and gray and I sensed ghosts. When I saw an old brick building with an old wall dog sign on it I knew ghosts were about sure enough. At first it looked like the sign spelled "Pelks" but I knew in a flash that once upon a time Belks operated here. As I took photos a big man stared at me.

Big man walked up. "Can I help you?"

"Just taking photos," I said, and we began the business of checking each other out.

Turns out that Glenn Smith and I had a connection with the University of South Carolina's Media Arts Department back in the 1980s. We tossed names about. Glenn had worked there and I had freelanced for various project directors ... people like Larry Cameron.

Glenn said that before Belks came along, the old brick building had been a company store. Textile workers spent company scrip for goods there. As a result, Great Falls developed a split personality. Back then, merchant Andy Morrison, who had a drooping eyelid, sold things people needed at lower prices. The company discouraged its workers from trading with old Flopeye but people liked his prices and moreover they genuinely liked him. As a result, the area around the Number 1 mill, company store, bank, and First Baptist Church came to be known as "Downtown," while the retail area where Flopeye held court came to be called Flopeye. To this day, two business areas exist.

In their heyday, textile companies dominated workers' lives, but at least they had jobs, something in short supply, though those would go away. I drove on and saw something that spoke volumes: a rusting, bent turnstile that stood at the entrance of a textile mill. Vines had woven through the chain link fence attached to the turnstile. I imagined that turnstile in better days—shiny, well maintained, and turning smoothly as a long line of workers

filed in to work their shift, lunch pails in hand. Now it rusts. Some would say decay. A short drive away a similar turnstile awaited workers who would never return. Rust-frozen turnstiles, icons of economic downturn.

You see Great Falls was once a mill town, and like other mill towns it has a great but tortured history. It was first known as Catawba Falls and was a boomtown in the early 1900s. Sitting on the old US 21 peddler's route from Charleston to the North Carolina mountains and beyond, it was a great trade route. Tobacco baron J.B. Duke who owned a power company you might've heard of founded the town. Why not? A major byway and a powerful river were close at hand. Mr. J.B. had a propensity to build hydroelectric plants on the Catawba River, which courses by the town's eastern edge, creating some serious rapids and as you'd expect, great falls.

Those falls led J.B. to found three Republic Cotton Mills that pulled people from the plow into newfangled jobs. It's a story I know, having written about it in *Transforming South Carolina's Destiny*, the history of South Carolina's technical college system. "Farming's mechanization, federal crop restrictions, and foreign competition in cotton and tobacco forced thousands of people off the farm. Farm work was just no good and millwork wasn't far behind. Textile mills began eliminating many jobs through automation. Cheap imported textiles closed mills and led to less demand for domestic cotton. There was one way out. Leave. Walter Edgar explained this exodus in *South Carolina, A History*, 'Changing agricultural patterns resulted in reduced job opportunities and were another factor in the depopulation of the countryside.' There was a more heart-rending way to express this. Said one man, 'My daddy was the strongest man I know, but not having work brought him to his knees.'

People left farming communities to live in the newly constructed mill villages where homes featured running water and electricity. You can see Great Falls's mill villages still and the homes there are most curious. Large rocks, boulders really, sit all around them. Some homes have no front yard, just miniature Stone Mountains, rocks bigger than cars. Well, less grass to cut. Life on the fall line.

The mill company also built merchants commercial buildings downtown. All that would go away too despite old Flopeye's efforts. You can see the outcome in various

ways. Up the street a short ways, a gas station of the old days sits idle. Green and white, its long overhang rests on just one column. Gas pumps are MIA and the concrete lot is badly cracked. Here and there, grass slowly colonizes all that hardness.

When people leave, businesses close. In 1950, 3,533 people called Great Falls home. The ensuing decades brought a steady decline and in 2016 it was estimated that 1,928 people lived in Great Falls. And no wonder, three mills had closed, as did the sewing rooms, and a spiral down effect hurt retail services, a scenario that affected other areas such as the Glendale community up near Spartanburg. In the 1950s textile jobs declined, and workers sang the blues as their way of life crumbled. Glory days were slipping away.

Smith, however, feels optimistic. The town's vintage look and Catawba River could play roles in a resurgence based on tourism, and he may well be right, for down by the river stands an intriguing attraction, Stoney Lonesome, the old jail, which last saw inmates around 1951. The jail was built circa 1912. In March 2011, former town councilman Larry Loflin helped town employees and community service workers unearth the old jail with a backhoe. Somehow it got covered when the first Republic Cotton Mill expanded its parking lot. Loflin says the old jail is "a nice bit of chrome for the town, a forgotten piece of history."

You could say that old jail came back from the grave. You could say they dug up

the past, and you'd be right, for they should have dug it up. Travel the back roads, and you travel into the past, and Great Falls and its old mills, boulder-strewn yards, Belks, and Stoney Lonesome make for a great destination, a journey to a past where a river famed for Indian pottery watched a textile industry wash downstream.

Someday, maybe, just maybe, people will take US 21, 141, 97, and 200 to this town down by the banks of the Catawba River. Sure, Great Falls has some wreckage, but it's authentic, a real-deal place, nothing fake about it at all, and that's because it's a ways off the interstate, the road to everywhere, the road to nowhere, the road to nothingness.

Visit Tom Poland's website at www.tompoland.net

Email Tom about most anything. tompoland@earthlink.net

Tom Poland is the author of twelve books and more than 1,000 magazine features. A Southern writer, his work has appeared in magazines throughout the South. The University of South Carolina Press released his book, *Georgialina, A Southland As We Knew It*, in November 2015 and his and Robert Clark's *Reflections Of South Carolina, Vol. II* in 2014. The History Press of Charleston published *Classic Carolina Road Trips From Columbia* in 2014. He writes a weekly column for newspapers in Georgia and South Carolina about the South, its people, traditions, lifestyle, and changing culture and speaks often to groups across South Carolina and Georgia, "Georgialina."

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Danny Johnson and North Industrial Machine received the 2017 Jimmy Newsom Signature Award from the Darlington County School District. PHOTOS BY MELISSA ROLLINS



The first graduating class pictured Left to right – Back Row: Laura Campbell, McLeod Healthcare Recruiter; Phylcia Cooper, Elizabeth Hopkins, Latoria Wheeler, Charlene Moses, and LeeAnn Haynes Florence Darlington Technical College Instructor. Front Row: Tameka McFarland, Whitney Moses, Shamika Murray, and Brittany Robinson

First Class completes Med-Surg Fast Track Program for McLeod Health

The first class for the Medical Surgical Technician Fast Track Program with McLeod recently held a graduation celebration at Florence Darlington Technical College. McLeod Health was awarded \$100,000 from the Pee Dee Workforce Development Board for the Healthcare Fast Track Program. Candidates who meet the eligibility requirement and who reside in the counties of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion and Marlboro can further their career in healthcare with Medical Surgical Technician classes at Florence Darlington College followed

by a Clinical Apprenticeship with McLeod Health at no cost to the participant. Upon successful completion of the program, participants are eligible for full time paid employment as a Medical Surgical Technician on one of the approved McLeod campuses. Students also receive a Nursing Assistant Certificate of Completion and are eligible for the State Certification exam. For questions on the Medical Surgical Technician Fast Track Program with McLeod call 843-777-4552 or email askrecruiting@mcleod-health.org

Jay Lucas: too many cooks in the kitchen in SC education

By Melissa Rollins
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The South Carolina Supreme Court recently dismissed the Abbeville school funding lawsuit, reversing the court's 2014 decision. During the annual Darlington County School District Education Forum, held Dec. 8, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives Jay Lucas said that he feels the court made the right decision. He also said that legislators would continue to fight for South Carolina's students to receive a great education.



Jay Lucas, Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives.



Molly Spearman, South Carolina Superintendent of Education.

Lucas was part of a panel discussion between state and local leaders who answered five questions relating to all areas of education. Others serving on the panel were Dr. Rainey Knight, former DCSD superintendent, South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, acting DCSD Superintendent Bill Boyd, Senator Gerald Malloy, Representative Robert Williams, Representative Terry Alexander and DCSD Board chairman Jamie Morphis.

Lucas said that the initial decision set a constitutional definition that did not exist before. "The first decision simply said a couple of things," Lucas said. "It dealt with 4K education and it established the term 'minimally adequate education' as the constitutional standard in this state; that is not in our constitution, it is a made up term by the court. I don't know

how many of you ascribe to a minimally adequate anything but around our household, minimally adequate in not adequate at all. What we did in the House is took a position that minimally adequate didn't mean anything. We want to provide a 21st Century education to every student in South Carolina."

Lucas said that the second lawsuit decision said that the state did not meet the standards set up in the first ruling.

"Abbeville II, the second decision, came out and it essentially said that we were not meeting the constitutional standard of minimally adequate education," Lucas said. "That was a blockbuster decision. The governor didn't want to do a lot with that decision... The Senate formed a committee made of eight senators; I don't think a committee of eight senators can address the problem."

Lucas said that the House responded to the court decision

by forming their own panel to include lawmakers but also educators like Dr. Rainey Knight and Molly Spearman.

Lucas said that the House of Representatives appointed the panel, including several members of the group suing the state in the Abbeville suits, to come up with a plan to create a 21st Century Education. He said that several pieces of legislation have come from that panel and all but one have passed. He also said that people across the state need to come to a consensus, instead of forming multiple plans of action when it comes to education.

"The problems we've had with education in South Carolina is because we've had too many cooks in the kitchen," Lucas said.

Senator Malloy said that the court's decision reversal came about after an election cycle.

"I would say, simply put, that elections have consequences," Malloy said. "What we did over

in the general assembly last year, we changed the composition of the Supreme Court; we had a new person elected. Obviously after 20 some odd years, the case is reversed. Obviously it took too long to bring it up and it didn't last very long but there is work that is being done."

Other questions included touching on topics such as teacher pay, the national teacher shortage and standardized testing. Look for other stories in upcoming issues of the News and Press for panelists' answers on these topics.

Before the panel discussion kicked off, North Industrial Machine received the Jimmy Newsom Signature Award in appreciation for all of their work providing apprenticeships to DCIT students as well as providing expertise and financial assistance in purchasing tooling equipment for machine tool classes so that students can get hands-on learning experience.

Project

Continued from 1A

Garland said that in the bond fund there is currently over a million dollars, along with a grant from the Rural Infrastructure Authority for \$445,000.

Mike Hanna of Hanna Engineering told council that, although it would not be ideal, they could start the project, use the money that they have and stop the project when the money runs out.

Milling said that stopping the project when the money runs out doesn't get the city off the hook for the money if the contract is awarded for \$2.5 million.

"We have to pay him that \$2.5 million even if we don't get the money from the legislature," Milling said. "We've got no way out of it."

Councilman Coleman Cannon said his farewells during the meeting. In January, Sheila Baccus will be sworn-in as the new councilperson for Ward 2.

"I want to thank you so much for allowing me to serve you these many years," Cannon said. "Matter of fact, I have been doing public service forty-something years because I spent ten years with the sheriff's department, ten years with the fire department and also the rescue squad; I've been in public service practically all my life. It has been a huge privilege and an honor to serve on this council for 21 years and six months."

Cannon received a key to the city from Mayor Gloria Hines.

"Rev. Cannon, we want to thank you for 21 beautiful years on council," Hines said. "Outstanding work. Looking sharp as a tack. We know now that you'll have more time to work with the church and we know you'll come visit us always. We wish you the best in everything you do."

In other business, the city received their 2015-2016 audit from Webster-Rogers. Jennifer Miller said that the city received a clean opinion.

County

Continued from 1A

Ordinance 17-12, allowing Darlington County department heads to reside outside the county, came up for final reading but was carried over, with Council member Bobby Kilgo citing the need for more consideration and review before the residency require-

ment is repealed.

County administrator Charles Stewart informed Council that a report on the recent public listening sessions regarding the fate of the county courthouse will be presented at County Council's regular meeting in February by facilitator Charles Weathers of the Weathers Group, which conducted the sessions.

Get kids excited about volunteering

Volunteering benefits people of all ages, but can be especially beneficial to children. Studies have indicated that teenagers who volunteer are less likely to become pregnant or use drugs. In addition, in a review of 60 studies on child engagement, Child Trends found that children who participate in civic engagement programs are likely to be more involved in school, to graduate from high school and to hold more positive civic attitudes than those who do not get involved in such programs.

Getting kids to volunteer as they progress through adolescence may not be so difficult. In its 2014 analysis of volunteering trends, Child Trends found that 39 percent of twelfth grade students volunteered at least once a month in 2014 compared to just 27 percent of eighth graders. Older students might feel

compelled to volunteer to improve their college admissions applications, but parents can take steps to get their younger children excited at the prospect of volunteering.

- Set a positive example. Young children want to emulate their parents, so moms and dads who volunteer may find ready and willing partners in their children. Parents can inform their children when they volunteer and why they do so before bringing kids along to join them.
- Don't forget fun. Young children may be more likely to embrace volunteering if the activity is fun. Kids might not find it too fun to sit next to their parents while mom and dad balance a soup kitchen's books, but a beach cleanup excursion or a trip to refurbish an inner city park may inspire kids to spend a lifetime giving back to their com-

munities and helping the less fortunate.

- Keep it simple. Kids may not enjoy volunteering activities that consume too much time or make them feel exhausted. As kids grow older, parents can encourage them to embrace more challenging activities and/or commit more time to volunteering. But keep things simple with especially young children or older children who have never before volunteered.
- Try and try again. It might take some trial and error before parents find volunteering opportunities their children truly enjoy. When volunteering with children for the first time, be careful not to commit to more than one day. If children enjoy themselves, then parents can commit more time. If kids do not seem excited by an activity, parents won't feel guilty or let the

charity down by not returning.

Children can benefit greatly by volunteering, and parents can get their youngsters involved at an early age.

Children can benefit greatly by volunteering, and parents can get their youngsters involved at an early age.

Children can benefit greatly by volunteering, and parents can get their youngsters involved at an early age.

Find complete rules at www.facebook.com/DarlingtonDowntown

@ddraSC
Darlington Downtown

SHOP LOCALLY

Shop at Darlington Businesses between Thanksgiving & Christmas and Enter to Win One of Three \$100 Fuel Cards

How It Works

- Shop at 5 different Darlington businesses
- Send copies of your receipts dated between Nov. 23 and Dec. 25 with this Entry Form to DDRA, PO Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540.
- You may enter additional forms for each 5 businesses you frequent during the holidays for additional chances to win.
- Drawing will be held Dec. 31 and winners notified Jan. 5.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail with copies of five (5) receipts from Darlington businesses dated 11-23-2017 to 12-25-2017 to DDRA, PO Box 57, Darlington, SC 29540.

This is a project of the Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association.

#shopdarlington

Resolve to put down devices and reduce screen time

Electronic devices have infiltrated nearly every aspect of daily life. And thanks to the portability of today's smartphones and tablets, many people are rarely without access to the internet or other digital applications.

A 2016 Nielsen Company audience report found that adults in the United States devoted about

10 hours and 39 minutes each day to consuming media. The analytics firm Flurry says users are spending nearly half of that time on mobile devices, particularly using mobile apps. Active Healthy Kids Canada reported in 2014 that children between the ages of three and five spent an average of two hours per day in front of

screens, while the statistics group eMarketer estimates that adults in Canada spent an average of nine hours and 41 minutes a day using media in 2016.

Electronic devices can be addictive. But over time and with some concerted effort, men, women and children can cut back on screen time.

Electronic devices can be addictive. But over time and with some concerted effort, men, women and children can cut back on screen time.

QUOTE

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

obituaries

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Michal Millen Baird

Funeral service for Mrs. Michal Millen Baird, 91, who died peacefully on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at the home of her son, Dick Baird, Jr., will be announced by Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home. Coker College awarded Michal the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award, an award for distinguished alumnus, and in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made in her honor to the Michal Baird Coker College Scholarship Fund, 300 East College Avenue, Hartsville, SC 29550.



Michal was born on December 19, 1925, and grew up in Hartsville, SC and was the oldest child of Horrie Dennis Millen and Dorothy Segars Millen. She graduated from Hartsville High School, where she was valedictorian and also voted Best Looking in her class. She continued her studies at Coker College in Hartsville, graduating in 1946. Following college, she worked with her Aunt, Lucile Kerfoot, an interior designer. She often accompanied her aunt to New York City on business trips. While there, they enjoyed Broadway plays and Michal did her best to see Frank Sinatra perform whenever he was in town.

She married Richard Lucas Baird in 1949. Together they had four children, and much of Michal's young married life was spent raising her children and taking them to various competitive events, whether it be track, baseball, basketball or church sword drills. When her children got older, she went to work at Sonoco in Hartsville.

She was predeceased by her parents, a sister, a brother and her beloved husband of 67 years. She is survived by a brother, Fred Millen and her children, Richard (Dick) Baird, Jr. (Diane), Michal (Jim Brown), Susan (David Poulnot) and David (Becky).

She is also survived by eleven grandchildren: Lucas, Taz, and

Rosemary Baird; Baker Brown; David, James and Hannah Poulnot; and Wills, Jane, Becca and "Boo" Baird. She is also survived by several special nieces and nephews.

During the last few years of her life, Michal was challenged by two neurodegenerative diseases, but due to her devoted family and especially her beloved daughter-in-law Diane, she died comfortably and peacefully at her son Dick's home.

Becky Shoemake

Rebecca C. "Becky" Shoemake asked God to please end the pain of her battle with cancer, and God answered her request the next day, December 8, 2017, when He called her to her eternal Heavenly home. Becky also asked God to let her sing with Vestal Goodman when she got there, so we know that Becky is having a glorious singing like never before with her loved ones.



Becky was born in Hartsville on May 8, 1945, the daughter of Lexton and Mary Alice Collins. She is survived by her husband Bob Shoemake, children: Renee Knight Woodberry, Kevin Knight (Julie), Chrystal Barnett (Mark), and Scott Shoemake (Karen); grandchildren: Trey Woodberry, Bryce Woodberry, Mark Barnett, II (Crystal), and Savannah Shoemake; sisters: Marlene Dalrymple (Murray) of Roanoke, VA, Patricia Collins of Hartsville, SC, and Stella Collins of Abbeville, SC; brothers: Jimmy Collins (Sylvia) of Wendell, NC, Tom Collins of Hartsville, Mike Collins (Debbie) of Arkansas, and many nieces and nephews. Becky is predeceased by her father, Lexton Collins, mother Mary Alice Collins, and two brothers Allen T. "Buddy" Collins, and Timothy "Gene" Collins.

As a faithful steward, Becky taught Sunday School for over 30 years and was a life-long member of the choir. Her favorite memories were singing with her dear friends, Mary Della Anderson and Vivian

Strickland, in the Ladies' Trio at First Church of God in Darlington. She led the GA's at Lamar Baptist Church, where she was a member; served as Sunday School Superintendent; prepared and served meals for the "homebound" church members; organized the senior's "Forever Young" banquets; and started the 4th of July Fireworks celebrations at Lamar First Baptist, which originated in her own backyard. Over the past two days, Becky's friends have said it best: "Becky was a beautiful lady inside and out"; "She made you feel special each time you would see her"; "Heaven has a new voice in the choir"; "She was an example to all of us who knew her"; "Becky was one of the kindest people I've known"; and "Our loss is Heaven's gain."

Visitation was Monday, December 11, 2017, 5 to 7 p.m., at Belk Funeral Home in Lamar. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at Lamar First Baptist Church, followed by burial at Philadelphia Cemetery. The family requests donations be made to Lamar First Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 431, Lamar, SC 29069; or to the Cancer Center c/o McLeod Foundation, P.O. Box 100551, Florence, SC 29502-0551.

A guestbook is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Charlene Amerson Lloyd

Charlene Amerson Lloyd, age 49, passed away on Thursday, December 7, 2017 after a courageous battle with cancer. A memorial service was held at Will of Faith Church, Saturday, December 9th at 2 p.m., directed by Belk Funeral Home. The family received friends from 1 until 2 p.m. at the church, and other times at the home of Rip and Brenda Parnell, 1025 Hibiscus Road, Lamar.

Born in Florence County, she is the daughter of the late Charles W. and Sylvia Cowick Amerson. Charlene had worked in maintenance at Magnolia Mall in Florence. She was a devoted and loving mother to her son Randall, and enjoyed spending time with her family.

She is survived by her son, Derrick Randall Lloyd II, her brother, Durwood "Durby" Amerson, her nephew, Brad (Jennifer) Amerson, a great-nephew, Collin Amerson, a special friend, Alvin Andrews, and her puppy, "Sweet Pea".

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials are made to Belk Funeral Home to help with funeral costs.

A tribute page for Mrs. Lloyd is available online at www.belkfuneralhome.com.

Ernest Raymond Morrison

Ernest Raymond Morrison, 84, of Darlington died on Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 1 p.m. in First Free Will Baptist Church. Burial followed in Matthews Cemetery, directed by Kistler Hardee Funeral Home of Darlington. The family will receive from 5 until 7 p.m. Friday, December 8, 2017 at Kistler Hardee Funeral Home and other times at the home of Mr. Morrison.

Ernest was born in Richland County, South Carolina. He was the son of the late, Charlie Morrison and Effie Humphries. Ernest was a faithful member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Darlington and retired from Dixie Cup.

Surviving are his sons, Dan Morrison and wife, Jenni of Florence, and Steve Morrison (Jenni) of Darlington; his grandchildren, Danielle (Nate) Gaston of Indiana, Tiffany Morrison of Texas, Paul (Desiree) Morrison of Effingham, Lee Ann (Khaled) Khaled of Myrtle Beach, Bryan (Jessica) Morrison of Florence, Livingstone McBryde of Florence, and Laura (Shane) Gainey of Hartsville; his great grandchildren, Aaden Morrison, Paige Morrison, and Grant Morrison.

Ernest was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Morrison; and by his brothers, Roy, Winfred, Richard, and David Morrison.

Memorials may be made to First Free Will Baptist Church, 231 Syracuse Street, Darlington, SC 29532.

Sign the online guest book at www.kistlerhardeefuneralhome.com.

CHURCH NEWS

Please send your church news and photos to: editor@newsandpress.net

Happy Birthday Jesus

You are cordially invited to the Kingdom Living Temple, 2056 2nd Loop Road Florence SC, for "Happy Birthday Jesus" on December 17. The event will begin at 4 p.m. and there will be a Christmas Skit by Francis Marion University students. There will also be free food, speakers, choirs, and singers. There will be scholarships awarded to high school students. For more information call 843-468-5265.

Christmas Concert

The Wesley Chapel Church Family will host their inaugural "Holiday Under The Stars" Christmas Program. The program will feature Wesley Chapel, Serene, Driven By Dance, Jerusalem Men's Ensemble, Jimmy "June" Bess, and special guests Boys Toooo Men. The event will take place on December 23 at 7 p.m. at Wesley Chapel UMC, 1421 East Lydia Hwy, Hartsville.

New Year's Eve Sing

Oates Baptist Church, 3569 Oates Highway Lamar, SC will have a New Year's Eve Sing on Sunday December 31st at 9:00 p.m. The Pine Ridge Singers

from Hartsville SC, and Southern Redeemed from Florence SC, will bring in the New Year with praise and worship music. Admission is free, and open to everyone. If you have any questions you may contact Pastor Gerald McAlister at 843-307-6203.

Choir Rehearsal

The Woman's Pee Dee District Department District Woman's Choir Winter Summit Choir Rehearsal will be held January 6. Practice will begin at 10 a.m. at the Savannah Grove Baptist Church Music Room, 2620 Alligator Road, Effingham.

The Upper Room Holy Ghost Mission

Sunday morning worship is at 11 a.m. Bible study Thursday night is at 7 p.m. at 109 Main St. in Darlington Come worship under the leadership of Pastor Warren D. Spearman. Call 843-250-0418 for prayer.

Bible Study

Bible study at Mt.Zion Tabernacle Believers Church 426 W. Broad St. Darlington, on Tuesday nights at 6:00 p.m. Bible study led by Rev.Larry Scipio. Contact Deacon Z.Frierson at 843-992-3158 or church 843-992-8125. Come join us.

Covenant Baptist Church Prayer Line

Anyone who needs prayer for

healing and deliverance is welcome to call the Covenant Baptist Church Prayer Line at 843-393-8555. The prayer line is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. Catherine's Episcopal Church

3123 W. Palmetto St., Florence. Worship Time: 11 a.m. (4th Sunday 8:30 a.m.) Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Phone: 843-601-3672 Facebook: St.Catherine's EC Vicar: The Rev. Jeffrey R. Richardson

Lawson Grove Baptist Church

3585 Lawson Grove Rd, Hartsville. Sunday-- Church School at 9:45a.m. and Worship Service at 10:45a.m. Wednesday-- Prayer 6:30 p.m. Bible study 7p.m. Streaming Available at lawsongrovebaptistchurch.com

Black Creek Baptist Church

Black Creek Baptist Church, located 139 Mont Clare Road, Dovesville, announces their hours: Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11a.m. Worship Services and 6 p.m. Evening Worship. Wednesday: 6:30 Adult Bible Study; Youth Bible Study, Children (Children In Action) 7:30 Adult Choir Practice

Covenant Baptist Church

Covenant Baptist Church, located at 628 Pocket Road, announces their hours: Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11a.m. Spoken Word Service. Wednesday: 6 p.m. Bible Study. Need a ride to church? Call 843-393-7872.

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries

Mt. Zion Tabernacle Ministries 426 W. Broad St. in Darlington announces their hours

1st/3rd Sunday Pastoral Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Church Services 11:00 Elder M. Frierson 2nd/4th Sunday: Sunday School at 9:30 by Deacon Z. Frierson Service at 11:00 a.m. Min.Gerald Green. The community is invited to attend. Come expecting to hear the anointed Word. Contact Deacon.Z.Frierson 843-229-3158

The Lord Cares

Please continue to assist The Lord Cares in caring for those in need in the Darlington area. T.L.C.'s food bank is located at 201 Grove Street in Darlington. They are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Donations of non-perishable food items (especially canned meats) are needed, as are toiletries, bathroom tissue, and paper towels. Mail monetary donations to: The Lord Cares PO Box, 1457, Darlington, SC 29540.

LIVING ON PURPOSE
Finding our place in the world

By Dr. William Holland

Personal change is not easy. Anyone who advertises how wonderful it is to sacrifice, suffer and be uncomfortable, probably has a degree in marketing. There's nothing wrong with reading books and watching videos about how other people have accomplished their goals, but even if we become experts on how to be successful, this does not automatically mean we will. Besides, beyond the motivational seminars and highly proclaimed formulas that are available, you are a unique individual and God has a special path for you to take. There is no substitute for prayer and perseverance if we are to become all that God has called us to be. Anyone that has experienced even a modest amount of achievement had to eventually arise from their couch and get moving. Every idea needs faith and a plan but without allowing the Lord to build us His way, we will most likely never fulfill His perfect will for our life.

When it comes to finding our place in this world, let us consider two categories. The first one I call, "floating down the river." Picture a scenario of someone napping in a small boat without a compass or a paddle. Having a spectator mentality, they have no map or intentional direction but rather are just hoping for the best. It's also common for these individuals to throw pity parties from time to time, because their happy go lucky lifestyle runs into problems and disappointments. Often haunted with thoughts of being left behind, they are caught in a vicious cycle of confusion and discouragement. As a Christian counselor, I've tried to help those who are stuck in this drifting mindset and certainly have compassion on them. No doubt it's extremely difficult to climb out of a deep hole whether they blame themselves or in denial believing everyone else is causing them to fail. It's always scary to move out of our comfort zone and face reality because sometimes life can seem like a huge mountain that's impossible to climb. We cannot force anyone to do anything and neither can we help those who not willing to help

themselves. In every area of life, those who desire a healthy state of being must see the truth about their own situation and be willing to act on it. Since His character and nature is divine order, we can agree there are no heavenly blueprints for floating aimlessly down the river. The good news is that God is patiently waiting to help us whenever our desire to change becomes stronger than our desire to remain the same.

I believe that having Jesus Christ as the Lord of our life is the meaning and purpose for everything we do and this brings me to our second point. As the author and finisher of our faith, His Word reminds us that He's drawn a general outline and a specific one-of-a-kind blueprint for everyone's life according to His perfect plans. True, He has not written, "John Doe will be a plumber" but the basic concept is to trust Him and listen to His still small voice as He leads us where He wants us to go. This truth encourages and motivates us, but another aspect of this process is to realize there are certain conditions and responsibilities on our part and in order for His plan to be fully activated, it will require surrendering our will to Him. Our greatest challenge with God as the Potter and us being the clay, is to accept the fact that we do not conveniently add God to the ambitions we have already established but rather to surrender everything to Him so that He can create within us a brand-new direction. Yes, there will be pain from abandoning our dreams and intentions but this is a very critical part of our salvation experience. Having a personal relationship with God is all about allowing Him to mold us into His image. He desires to be more than a Savior, He wants to be our Lord. Proverbs chapter 3 and verses 5 and 6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."

Dr. Holland is a Christian author, outreach minister and community chaplain. Ask for his new free CD, "Keeper of my soul" at billyhollandministries.com.

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PETS OF THE WEEK



Playful, bubbly and ready to get the party started, Merrill knows how to have a good time. This mid-sized, multi-colored fellow has never met a stranger. Kissy and very friendly, nothing would please Merrill more than to head outside for fresh scents and to run around and play. A good choice for a family with kids and other dogs, Merrill is self-entertaining and so much fun to hang out with! 37lbs; 1-2 yrs old; hound; male



Bubba is your go-to new best friend if you are looking for someone who gets along with everyone! This three-legged fellow works well in a pack of other dogs, is perfectly suited in a home with slightly older kids and is house trained! Known for his constant state of happiness, Bubba sent Santa a special request asking for a home for the holidays. 61lbs; male; 3-5 yrs old; lab/bull mix

The Darlington County Humane Society is located 0.5 miles from Darlington Raceway off Highway 151 in Darlington.

Have you lost or found a pet?

If you have lost or found a pet, go online to www.darlingtonhumane.org and click on the link **Lost/ Found Pets**. You will be directed to the www.thelostpets.com Web site where you can register your missing pet.

You will be able to provide a detailed description of your missing pet, as well as attach a photo. Upon registering your lost pet, an e-mail alert will be sent to the Darlington Shelter's e-mail address. This will allow the Shelter staff to recognize your lost pet should it arrive at the facility.

Area Happenings

Weekly Events

Centennial Farmers Market

This market features fresh, organic gourmet foods, free-range eggs and homegrown, healthy foods including homemade breads and sweet treats and as always, live music and entertainment! Every Thursday from 4 - 7 p.m. Location: Corner of 5th St. and Carolina Ave. in Hartsville.

Darlington Elks Lodge

Tuesdays: Swing/Shag dance lessons, "New" line dance lessons from 8-10 p.m. Wednesdays: Karaoke from 8-10 p.m. Thursdays: Bingo at 7:30 p.m.

Darlington Elks Lodge is located at 836 Timmonsville Hwy. For more info: 843-393-1451

Paws to Read

Paws to Read is a literacy program where emerging and reluctant readers can create positive emotional connections with reading. Therapy Dogs International with their trainers come for one-on-one reading sessions on the first Saturday and third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm, and 3 p.m. respectively at the Darlington Library Branch.

Story Time

Darlington: Thursdays at 10 a.m. Info: 398-4940 ext. 305. Hartsville: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Info: 332-5115 ext. 7. Society Hill: Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Info: 378-0026. Lamar: Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Info: 326-5524

Library Programs

Teen Program - Mon at 5pm After School Club - Tues. at 4pm Homeschool Hub - Wed. at 2pm Family Movie - Thurs. at 4pm

Crochet & Knit Clubs

Lamar: each Monday at 4:30 p.m. 326-5524 Society Hill: each Friday from 2-4 pm 378-0026 Darlington: 2nd Friday of the month 10 a.m. - noon 398-4940

Hartsville: "The Stitches" group meets the 1st & 3rd Mondays and 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 5 pm.

Pee Dee SCORE

Pee Dee SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) offers Free confidential counseling to America's small business, serving Darlington, Florence and surrounding areas. Existing and start-up businesses can schedule an appointment by calling the Hartsville Chamber of Commerce at 843-332-6401.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous will

hold an open meeting of big book and traditions studies weekly at 8 p.m. Monday nights at Trinity UMC on Pearl Street. Use Orange Street entrance. Info: 843-395-6897.

AA meets at the Hartsville AA Hut, 310 S. McFarland Street: 12 noon and 6 p.m. Monday/Wednesday; 12 noon and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; and 8pm Sunday.

Al-Anon Meetings

Al-Anon is a fellowship of adult relatives and friends of alcoholics for mutual support. Visitors are welcome. Childcare is not available. Al-Anon meetings:

Thursdays at 8p.m at the Hartsville AA Hut, 310 S. McFarland Street. Info: 843-992-2981.

Free STEM Friday at Girls University

For girls grades 5K - 8th grade. The event is 100 percent free and will take place from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the Girls University Lab, 1249 Celebration Blvd. in Florence. Girls will complete a variety of Girls U signature STEM and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) enrichment activities. Each month, there will be a different activity. Only 20 slots available so girls must be registered to attend. Register online at <https://free-fridays.eventbrite.com>.

Monthly Events

Darlington Library

Book Club - 3rd Sat. of each month Needle Nuts - 2nd Fri. each month

Yoga for Beginners

Yoga will be held at the Darlington Library the 1st and 3rd Saturday each month from 12:30-2 p.m.

Darlington County Coordinating Council

The first Friday of every month at 11:30. February, April, June, September, and November at Carolina Pines; January, March, and May,

August, October, and December at Medford Nursing Center in Darlington.

Hartsville Pilot Club

Fourth Monday each month at 6 p.m. at their clubhouse across from the Lawton Park Tennis Courts

Hartsville Kiwanis Club

Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at the Hartsville Country Club

Hartsville Lions Club

Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. at Mr. B's Restaurant

Hartsville Rotary Club

Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at Hartsville Country Club

Hartsville Toastmasters

2nd and 4th Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Black Creek Arts Center

Book Club

The Darlington Library Book Club meets the 3rd Saturday of each month 12pm-1 p.m. Stop by the library to pick up each month's selection.

Darlington County Board of Education

The Darlington County Board of Education meets on the second Monday of each month. Additional meetings may be called for worksessions and information sessions. The meeting will begin at 6 pm for regularly scheduled meetings. The Darlington County Board of Education in the Training Room of the Administrative Office located at 120 E. Smith Avenue in Darlington, except where noted on the schedule.

Dec. 2017

Winter Ice Skating

Public ice skating at the Florence Civic Center is back through January 1, 2018! Just in time too for a wonderful winter season of family, friends, fun, and ice-skating. All public ice skating sessions are two hours. The cost for adults is \$9; children under 12 are \$7. Skate rental is \$3, but you are welcome to bring your own. Please visit www.florenceciviccenter.com for a

complete schedule of days and times.

Live@Central

Join Central UMC at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday December 13 with the popular duo Nick Townsend and Ann Miles for their popular Christmas-themed program. The free public program will be held in the sanctuary. Dinner (optional) will be served at 5:15 p.m. The meal cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children (12 and under). Please call the church office if you plan to attend dinner or need additional information. Central United Methodist Church is located at 265 W. Cheves St. in Florence. For more information, call 843-662-3218 or visit www.centralmethodist.net

Moore Farms Botanical Garden Holiday Garlands

December 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's greenery galore! Add natural beauty to your home with handcrafted garlands by using fresh greenery such as cypress, arborvitae, and magnolia. In this class, you'll learn the steps to turn unassuming branches and foliage into beautiful pieces of festive cheer. The cost is \$30 per person. Moore Farms Botanical Garden is at 100 New Zion Road, Lake City. Call 843-210-7582 for more information.

Darlington Rec. Dept. Bingo: Christmas Bingo

Enjoy Bingo at Darlington Rec. Dept. December 14 at 10 a.m. Contact Rec. Dept. for more information: 843-398-4030.

Moore Farms Botanical Garden Holiday Wreaths

December 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 'Tis the season to decorate! Add a fresh evergreen wreath to your home for the perfect festive touch this season. With proper care, it can last for months! In this class you'll learn how to create exquisite wreaths from the unique greenery, berries and dried materials found right here at Moore Farms Botanical Garden. Cost is \$30 per person. Moore Farms Botanical Garden is at 100 New Zion Road, Lake City. Call 843-210-7582 for more information.

American Legion

American Legion Post 13 of Darlington will meet Thursday, December 14 at the Post on Harry Byrd Highway next to the South Carolina National Guard Armory. A meal is served at 6 p.m. and the monthly meeting follows. The nation's largest Veterans organization invites its members, eligible Veterans, and active National Guard/Reserve personnel to attend.

The Nutcracker

Columbia City Ballet performance of The Nutcracker. Dec. 15 at Center Theater, 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 843-383-5344

Reindeer Run 5K

The Darlington Family YMCA will hold its annual Reindeer Run 5K at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, beginning

at the YMCA, 123 Exchange St. Info: (843) 398-0844

The Christmas Star

Visit the Dooley Planetarium December 17 for The Christmas Star. Hosted by Dr. Jeannette Myers, this program looks at the different possibilities for the Christmas Star and is based on a script written by Mr. James "Ed" Dooley. The program will begin promptly at 3 pm. Doors will open at 2 pm for visitors to arrive early Visit astro.fmari-on.edu to learn more about Dooley Planetarium.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Chancel Choir will sing a mix of new and time-honored favorites at A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 4 p.m. Dec. 17 at Central United Methodist Church. This beautiful service retells the Christmas story: from the Old Testament through the birth of Christ to the visits of the shepherds and magi. The music ranges from bright and rhythmic to serene and reflective. In between the lessons and the carols, you are invited to participate in singing your favorite carols. Powerful organ accompaniments and soaring harmonies will enhance your singing! An offering will be received during the service to support SNAC. Come early to enjoy a recital of Christmas organ music at 3:40 p.m. and stay afterwards for a reception. Central United Methodist Church is located at 265 W. Cheves St. in Florence. For more information, call 843-662-3218 or visit www.central-methodist.net

St. Luke Grinch Day

St. Luke United Methodist Church, 302 Dunlap Dr, Hartsville, will host a Grinch Christmas Camp December 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. The camp is \$12 and will feature the Grinch movie, Grinch activities and Grinch baking. Please call the church office, 843-383-5169, to sign up.

Christmas on Carolina

Join us in downtown Hartsville for Christmas on Carolina on Thursday evenings from November 30th- December 21st. You will find the holiday spirit in our storefronts as they welcome you to treasures waiting to be gifted to loved ones. During Christmas on Carolina evenings, Camden Carriage Company will pick up riders on East College Avenue and stroll them through our downtown on a 20-25 minute ride. Carriage rides will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Main Street Hartsville businesses will also stay open late for you to check those last minute gifts off your list. Hartsville's Te'Quan Coe and his violin will fill Carolina Avenue with the sounds of the holidays to top off these perfect holiday nights. For more information, call 843-917-0602 or visit www.HartsvilleForTheHolidays.com.

Saving Christmas Movie

Christian Fellowship Assembly of God will be offer-

ing a free showing of the Saving Christmas on Dec. 22. There is no admission fee. All are welcome to come. The church is located at 736 W Carolina Ave, Hartsville. For more information, call 843-383-6211.

Jan. 2018

Darlington City Council Meeting

The Darlington City Council will hold their monthly meeting Jan. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Darlington Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 400 Pearl Street.

Hartsville City Council Meeting

City Council holds their regular council meeting January 9 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, found on the first floor of City Hall, 100 E. Carolina Ave.

Free to Be Me Workshop

The Free to Be Me workshop, January 20, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. is a transition-focused workshop for young adults ages 12 and up with disabilities and their parents/guardians. The parents/guardians and young adult attend the learning sessions together to develop a transition plan, which includes the school transition process, life goals, employment goals, self-determination skills and self-advocacy development. Parents/guardians will also learn about alternatives to guardianship and how to encourage and support their young adult's independence. A light lunch will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. To register, visit fs27.forms.site.com/all4autism/form31/index.html.

Economic Development Update Luncheon

The Economic Development Update Luncheon will be held at the Hartsville Country Club on January 31. Lunch will be available at 11:30 a.m. with the program promptly beginning at 12:15 p.m. Frank Willis of Darlington County Economic Development and Ronald Carter of the North Eastern Strategic Alliance will update members on activity in our county and region. The SC Department of Commerce's Deputy Director for Global Business Development Mandy Brawley will deliver the keynote address.

Feb. 2018

Golden Readers at the Florence Little Theatre

A delightful afternoon of "readers theatre." Enjoy Wit and Wisdom - a collection of humorous stories plus the radio play Spring Cleaning from Our Miss Brooks on Feb. 4, 2018. This free show is directed by Rebecca Sowell. Tickets are required as seating is assigned. Recommended age for the show is 13 or older. Check their Facebook page or call 843-662-3731 for ticket availability.

<p>DARLINGTON</p> <p>207 S. Main St. • 393-0885</p>		<h2>Community CONNECTIONS</h2>	
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Darlington County Institute of Technology inspires with Interactive Career Fair

The Darlington County Institute of Technology (DCIT) celebrated American Education week recently by hosting 280 students from Darlington County School district (DCSD) for an Interactive Career Fair.

The students, who attend Hartsville High School and Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology, learned about career and educational opportunities available at DCIT to aid them as they pursue career goals.

On Feb. 9, the same opportunity will be provided to approximately 300 students from Darlington High and Lamar High Schools. The events are a collaborative effort between DCIT, DCSD and numerous members of the business community.

Students completed interest assessments and participated in Individualized Graduation Plan conferences

to determine their career cluster. Industry representatives were grouped together according to the clusters and spoke to students about related careers. Some of the presenters engaged the students in career simulations to make the experience more true-to-life.

In addition to the presentations from businesses, students also took a tour of DCIT's state-of-the-art facility. The 40-minute tour gave students chances to listen to DCIT upperclassmen describe their classes such as Accounting, Agriculture, Business Law, Carpentry, Computer Service Repair, Electricity, Engineering, Graphics, Health Science, Machine Tool, Marketing, Webpage Design and Welding. The upperclassmen "ambassadors" explained how to get prepared prior to enrolling, what to expect, advantages of



co-curricular student organizations, competitions and

conferences, and prospects for their futures.

Career cluster presentations included agriscience and

biotechnologies, arts and mass communication, business, education, government and human services, engineering, and medical sciences. Organizations who provided presenters for the Interactive Career Fair included Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center, Clemson Extension, Coker College, Florence-Darlington Technical College, Florence County EMS, Francis Marion University, Lincoln Technical College, Nucor, Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, PolyQuest, Sand Hills State Forest, Sonoco, and South Carolina Air National Guard. Other individuals who participated in the Interactive Career Fair included Keon Aldrich, realtor; Dedrick Cameron, sports agent; Chandra Cleveland-Jennings, private investigator; and Judge Cheveron Scott, Darlington County magistrate.

Clemson poinsettia expert gives tips on plant selection and care

CLEMSON — It's the Christmas season and if decorating with poinsettias is on your to-do list, a Clemson professor and poinsettia expert has some advice for selecting and caring for this plant.

Jim Faust, an associate professor of horticulture who has been studying poinsettias since he was in college in the 1980s, says to buy plants with a full cluster of cyathia, true flowers located in the center of the plant. Colored parts of poinsettias are modified leaves called bracts.

"When selecting a poinsettia to purchase, consumers should look for a full cluster of cyathia in the center of the showy red bracts," Faust said. "If the cyathia have fallen out, then the plant has passed its peak performance. Also, the lower leaves of the plant should look fresh and dark green. Yellow, faded leaves are indicators of plants that are nearing the end of their potential shelf life."

Poinsettias are available with red, white, pink, peach, yellow, marbled and speckled bracts. Red poinsettias account for 80 percent of the sales in the United States. For Clemson fans, there's a poinsettia, Orange Spice, with orange bracts available this year. People buying poinsettia plants this year also may find poinsettias with green bracts, Envy, in stores and nurseries.

Once the plant is taken home, Faust said it must be properly cared for to continue to look showy throughout the holiday season. Here are a few of his suggestions:

- Place poinsettias in bright locations where the plants can receive as much light as possible.
- Keep poinsettias away from drafts, heating and air

conditioning vents, as well as heaters.

- Avoid letting the bracts touch cold windowpanes.
- Keep poinsettia plants moist but not soggy. Overwatering is a major cause of early leaf drop in poinsettias.
- Maintain temperatures from 60 to 75 degrees.

Poinsettias are part of the Euphorbiaceae or Spurge family and are native to the west coast of Mexico. Originally, poinsettias were outdoor plants. The milky white sap found in poinsettias was once used by the Aztecs as a fever medicine. The Aztecs also extracted a purplish dye from its bracts to use in textiles and cosmetics.

The poinsettia's journey from Mexico to the United States began when Joel Roberts Poinsett, a South Carolina politician, served as the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. Poinsett believed that agriculture was the key to economic development, so he facilitated the exchange of plants between the U.S. and Mexico in the 1800s. The poinsettia just happened to be one of the many hundreds of plants that were exchanged. Poinsett was honored by having the plant named after him. The name poinsettia continues to be used in most English-speaking countries, while the Mexicans refer to the plant as la nochebuena, translated as the "holy night."

Poinsettias became indoor plants after Paul Ecke Sr. of California developed the first potted poinsettia plant that could be grown indoors. Ecke began selling these plants from roadside stands along Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, California. His son, Paul Ecke Jr., took mar-

keting of the plant to a new level when he began advertising in magazines and on television shows. Because magazines are printed months in advance, Ecke Jr. bloomed poinsettia plants out of season so that editors would have images to include in their publications. He also donated poinsettias to decorate the sets of "The Tonight Show" starring Johnny Carson, "The Dinah Shore Show" and the Bob Hope Christmas specials. What began as a minor plant, exploded in to the No. 1 selling potted plant in the United States.

In addition to having the plant named after him, Poinsett's connection to the poinsettia plant was also recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives when it declared Dec. 12 as Poinsettia Day. This date also marks the death of Poinsett.

Just as Poinsett's journeys took him to Mexico, Faust too has traveled to Mexico in search of poinsettia information. His travels include a trip to a remote canyon in Mexico to observe wild poinsettias firsthand. In the wild, poinsettias grow up to 12 feet tall and are topped with just one flower. The plants are rather gangly shrubs that cling to steep canyon walls nestled in remote mountainous areas.

Faust's visits also have taken him to the small mountain town of Taxco, where he attended its annual poinsettia festival. This festival was initiated in the 17th century by Franciscan monks who first used the poinsettia to signify the blood of Christ. Taxco is reportedly the area Poinsett is said to have collected the first poinsettia plants he shipped to the United States.

Scott votes in support of major bipartisan legislation to help local economic growth

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs recently passed major bipartisan financial legislation, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act, including two amendments introduced by U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC). Scott's amendments are the bipartisan Family Self-Sufficiency Act, which will help families living in public housing build their savings and increase their earnings, as well as the bipartisan MOBILE Act, which makes it easier for poor and minority Americans to open a bank account instead of relying on payday lenders and pawnbrokers.

"I was proud to work with Chairman Crapo and my colleagues on the Banking Committee to pass this important bipartisan legislation, including my two amendments," Scott said. "Both the Family Self-Sufficiency Act and the MOBILE Act will help hardworking Americans gain a foothold in our financial system, be it through simply being able to open a bank account or more efficiently growing their savings account."

Scott continued, "The Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act as a whole is a huge step forward for economic growth and job creation. Too many local communities are being held back by burdensome regulations on small financial institutions, and by providing regulatory relief we can help create jobs and stimulate growth. Community banks are often an invaluable tool for small businesses and local entrepreneurs, and it is critical we pro-

vide an environment where they can succeed. I'm also pleased we developed important provisions protecting veterans, consumers and homeowners. I look forward to the entire Senate voting on this commonsense, bipartisan legislation!"

The committee passed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act by a vote of 16-7 this afternoon. Scott is an original cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation, which, as the Banking Committee notes, right-sizes regulation for smaller financial institutions, encourages growth in local communities, and includes important consumer protections for veterans, senior citizens and victims of fraud.

Scott's first amendment, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act, originally introduced this past June by a bipartisan group of Senators including Scott, would streamline and improve the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. Specifically, it would:

- Improve the FSS program by permanently streamlining the Housing Choice Voucher-FSS and Public Housing-FSS into one program, which would relieve public housing agencies of the unnecessary burden of running two separate programs that share the same goal
- Broaden the scope of the supportive services that may be offered to include attainment of a GED, education in pursuit of a post-secondary degree or certification, homeownership assistance, and training in asset management
- Expand the reach of

the FSS program to more families that may be excluded due to a technicality related to the kind of housing assistance a family receives. The bill would authorize HUD to open up the FSS program to families that live in privately-owned properties subsidized with project-based rental assistance.

Scott's second amendment, the Making Online Banking Initiation Legal and Easy (MOBILE) Act, addresses the fact that current laws in regard to identity verification have not kept up with the changing technologies of the Internet era. This amendment would allow banks and credit unions to use a scan or picture of a driver's license to verify a customer's identification when they open an account online. It also specifically stipulates the image must be destroyed after the account is created in order to protect privacy. Approximately 16 million adults live in households without a checking or savings account and an additional 51 million adults live in households that have a bank account but rely on nonbank lenders like payday lenders and pawnbrokers with sky-high interest rates. However, about 90 percent of underbanked adults own a mobile phone, of which 75 percent are smartphones. The MOBILE Act can connect these Americans to legitimate financial institutions and deter them from payday lenders and pawnbrokers. It is supported by the South Carolina Bankers Association, the Carolinas Credit Union League, the American Bankers Association Consumer Bankers Association, Credit Union National Association, and the Financial Services Roundtable.

Surprise guests with savory gourmet grilled cheese

The apple is a versatile fruit that can be used in everything from desserts to breakfast foods to savory dishes for dinner. While reaching its peak season in the autumn, apples continue to be widely available throughout the year, and most supermarkets carry up to five varieties of popular apples to pick from.

Although many people associate apples with sweet recipes, they actually can be put to work in other dishes that aren't necessarily served at dessert. In fact, apples are equally at home during other courses and can take a turn as an appetizer or as passed hors d'oeuvres at the next holiday party you're hosting.

To give guests something savory, try offering "Apple & Mustard Grilled Cheese Sandwiches" from Amy Traverso's "The Apple Lover's Cookbook" (W.W. Norton & Company). Grilled cheese is a comfort food staple for both children and adults. When made like a panini and cut

into bite-sized pieces, this cheesy treat can make tasty appetizers for your next gathering.

Apple & Mustard Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

Yields 2 sandwiches

With this technique, you'll have a perfect crispy-melty sandwich without a panini press. A number of different cheeses work equally well here, so feel free to experiment.

1 1/2 tablespoons salted butter, at room temperature

4 slices sourdough bread

2 teaspoons whole-grain mustard

1/3 large firm-tart apple (about 3 ounces; see "Apple notes," below), unpeeled, cored and sliced very thin

4 ounces sharp Cheddar, aged Gouda, Gruyere, or Havarti cheese, thinly sliced

1. You'll need one large skillet and one medium-size one, preferably cast-iron (the heavier the better). Set both skillets over medium heat and



let them get hot.

2. Meanwhile, butter one side of each bread slice; then lay slices butter-side down on your cutting board. Spread equal portions of mustard on two slices; then divide apple slices into two portions and lay on top of mustard. Divide cheese slices and lay over apples. Top sandwiches with remaining bread slices, buttered-side up.

3. Lay sandwiches in the large skillet. Cook until bot-

tomatoes are browned, 3-4 minutes; then flip. Set the preheated medium-size skillet on top of sandwiches as a press. (If your skillet isn't heavy, weigh it down with a water-filled kettle or a few large cans of tomatoes.) Cook until both sides are evenly browned, about 2 minutes more.

Apple notes: Use whatever variety you have on hand, but a firm-tart apple goes well with the mustard and cheese in the sandwich.

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Falcons and Lady Falcons win two out three this past week

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Darlington – It was another busy week for both the Darlington boys' and girls' basketball teams as both had three game weeks with Falcons playing two of three at home while the Lady Falcons had to play two of three on the road.

Darlington 82, Marlboro County 62
The Falcons started the week off against the Marlboro County Bulldogs this past Tuesday, December 5 at home and dominated Marlboro from beginning to end, cruising to an 82-62 victory.

Kenynon Scott led the Falcons in

scoring with 22, but he was not the only Darlington player in double digits scoring as Jalian Smith finished with 13, Jamean Muldrow with 12 and De'Ondre Graham with 10.

Smith also added a team high of 10 rebounds to go along with his 13 points.

Darlington 60, South Florence 48
Playing in its second game in as many days the Falcons showed no ill effects, taking down the Bruins at home 60-48.

Also for the second straight night Scott and Smith led the Falcons in scoring with the same points total as they had the previous night with Scott

recording 22 points and Smith adding 13. Muldrow was the only other Darlington player in double digits, finishing up with 10 points on the night.

Smith earned his second straight double-double, grabbing 11 rebounds as well.

Darlington 65, Wilson 67, 2OT

Despite losing to Wilson, the number one ranked team in all of 4A, for the second time this season, the Falcons once again proved they belong in the discussion of teams vying for the 4A state championship after a 67-65 loss in double overtime on road this past Friday.

In what seems to be becoming a pattern, Scott was the Falcons leading scorer with 17 while Tyshaun Johnson finished 11 and Smith with 10.

Smith just missed out on his third straight double-double, snagging eight rebounds.

Darlington is now 4-2 on the year.

Lady Falcons Recap

The Lady Falcons, just like the Falcons, went 2-1 this past week defeating Marlboro and South Florence while losing to Wilson.

Darlington started off the busy week handling its business against Marlboro, defeating the Lady Bulldogs

50-39 and followed that win up with a 39-33 win over South Florence the next night, before losing to Wilson 59-36 on Friday night.

Unlike the Falcons, who got to play two home games, the Lady Falcons ended up with just one, as they had to travel to Florence to play South Florence. The girls' junior varsity teams played in the first game just like the boys junior varsity teams back in Darlington.

Both teams will follow the same scheduling format when they meet again later in the season with the Lady Falcons getting to play at home while the Falcons travel to Florence.

Can less be more for Hartsville this season?

By Drake Horton
Contributing Writer

Sometimes less is more and not all change is a bad thing. At least the Hartsville Red Foxes boys' basketball team is hoping that is the case.

After bringing in a new assistant coaching staff, having two of its tops players transfer out and not to mention the seniors that graduated it could be seen as Hartsville is in a rebuilding mode, but head coach Yusuf English does not believe that is the case.

In actuality, he believes this year's team is going to be better and he believes it is because the pieces fit better together.

"I think we are a better team this year than last year; last year we had better talent," English said. "The pieces fit together."

Missing from last year's team is Darius Rhodes and Terrence Mack, two guards that are starting at their respective schools with Rhodes at Wilson and Mack at Trinity-Byrnes.

While the losses of Rhodes and Mack may appear to the naked eye as something of a division between the coach and the players, according to English that is far from the truth. Instead, he said he loves both of the players, but believes that it was time for everybody to move on.

A big thing that English is trying to change this year is the culture of his basketball team; changing a culture is never an easy task, according to English.

"It is extremely hard to change culture," English said.

"I started chipping away little by little."

Last year, English's first year as Hartsville's head coach, the Red Foxes showed some promise, making it back to the playoff before being eliminated by Wilson.

It was that loss that helped give English the platform he needed to reiterate his family mantra and explain to them that the selfishness they had last year was what hindered them from having more success and if they could embrace doing more team possessions, instead of individual possessions, they would win.

"I have a bunch of kids of that can score 30 but if we all score 15, we win," English said.

Most importantly, English wants all of his players to understand that there are going to be times when they all need each other and he wants them to be able to count on one another.

"There are times in life when a person is going to need you and you are going to need them," English said.

English wants year two to be very different from year one and the changes he has made in the off season are examples of his willingness to do what it takes to make it happen.

One thing will not change, however, no matter what other changes are done. That is the goal that he sets at the start of each season.

"I set the same goal every year and that is to win a state championship and nothing has changed," English said.

UofSC economists say SC economy to remain strong in 2018

Despite a tight labor market and a series of Midlands-area layoffs due to the recent shutdown of construction at the V.C. Summer nuclear facility in Fairfield County, South Carolina's economy remains strong and stable. Palmetto State residents can expect that stability to continue in 2018, according to University of South Carolina economists at the Darla Moore School of Business.

Doug Woodward, director of research, and Joseph Von Nessen, a research economist, presented their 2018 forecast Friday (Dec. 8) to nearly 250 of the state's business and community leaders at the 37th Annual Economic Outlook Conference (EOC).

They say South Carolina should see broad-based growth continue across most industries with accompanying gains in employment and income for South Carolinians.

Von Nessen said the single best indicator of economic performance – job creation – is expected to grow at 2.1 percent in 2018.

"Although our current economic expansion is now in its ninth year, it's important to remember that economic expansions don't die of old age," Von Nessen said. "Market fundamentals are strong and the state's economy is in a very good position as we head toward 2018."

These market fundamentals include low unemployment, higher wage growth and stronger global demand. "The labor market in South Carolina is more favorable to workers than at any time in the last eight years," he said. "With the unemployment rate currently at 3.9 percent – the lowest level since the year 2000 – employers are having to provide stronger incentives, such as higher wages, to attract and retain the workers they need."

Once again, the manufacturing and professional and business services sectors continued to be major drivers of South Carolina's employment growth in 2017. Construction didn't fair as

well.

"After being the state's leading industry in 2016, construction markets have tapered off in the face of rising lumber prices," Von Nessen said. "The U.S. Department of Commerce imposed import tariffs on Canadian lumber beginning in late 2016, which has contributed to higher input costs for builders and reduced the overall growth rate for the industry this year."

Von Nessen also reported that stronger global demand in 2017 gave rise to increased activity within the advanced manufacturing sector, which relies heavily on a global customer base and is export driven. He said that sector has helped increase export activity through the S.C. Ports Authority.

While almost all counties in South Carolina saw positive economic growth in 2017, not every business type benefited equally.

"Historically, the majority of job gains during economic expansions have come from small businesses, but this current expansion is different," Von Nessen said. "Larger businesses – those with more than 100 employees – are now generating a much greater share of total employment."

The economists said additional access to financial capital, which may result from the proposed tax plan currently being debated in the U.S. Congress, could help small businesses spur additional growth.

Von Nessen said that growth would likely come in the form of productivity gains.

"Because businesses are struggling to find new workers in an economy with such low unemployment, access to new financial resources would be more likely to go towards efforts to help retain and invest in existing employees," he said.

Additionally, firms likely would engage in more capital investment and research and development, all of which could help to generate productivity gains.

Von Nessen expects the size of the labor force to continue to grow in 2018 as job opportunities continue to increase, which implies that a minor decrease in the unemployment rate should be expected over the next year.

Specifically, the Moore School forecast indicates that the unemployment rate over the next 12 months will drop slightly to about 3.6 percent from its current rate of 3.9 percent. Total personal income is expected to grow at 4.3 percent in 2018, which would be an increase from its growth rate of 3.8 percent in 2017.

Despite a positive outlook for 2018, Von Nessen said addressing workforce challenges in South Carolina will be vital.

"Labor availability will be the bottleneck of economic growth in 2018," Von Nessen said.

With labor availability's critical importance, this year's conference focused on addressing the ongoing workforce challenges in the Palmetto State from three perspectives.

Gov. Henry McMaster addressed state-level workforce plans being developed. Cheryl Stanton, executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce, focused on how the department supports workforce training and connects individuals to businesses and job opportunities. Joan Robinson-Berry, vice president and general manager of Boeing South Carolina, presented Boeing as a case study of how one major South Carolina employer has addressed workforce challenges in 2017.

South Carolina Communities at a Glance

In 2017, South Carolina employment increased in most major metropolitan regions of the state (October 2017 employment compared with October 2016). The largest gains occurred in Myrtle Beach (+3.4 percent) and Augusta (+3.2 percent). More modest gains occurred in

Charleston (+1.6 percent), Rock Hill (+1.4 percent) and Spartanburg (+1.0 percent). The smallest gains occurred in Hilton Head (0.9 percent), Anderson (0.7 percent), Greenville (0.7 percent), Darlington (0.6 percent), Florence (0.6 percent) and Columbia (0.4 percent). Employment levels declined slightly year-over-year in Sumter (-0.8 percent).

Retail trade employment in South Carolina varied among the state's regions. Overall, employment in this sector grew 1.1 percent as of October 2017 (compared with October 2016). Additionally, several regions of the state witnessed more sizable gains. Regions of the Palmetto State with gains in retail trade that exceeded the state average occurred in Myrtle Beach (+4.7 percent), Charleston (+2.2 percent) and Greenville (+1.8 percent). Retail trade employment declined in Columbia (-0.2 percent) and Spartanburg (-1.2 percent).

Single-family residential building permit activity was up across most of the state over the last year. Comparing single-family residential building permits issued year-to-date October 2017 with those issued year-to-date October 2016, major gains were seen in Florence (+24.4 percent) Myrtle Beach (+22.5 percent) and Spartanburg (+20.2 percent). More modest gains were observed in Greenville (+7.2 percent), Columbia (+6.2 percent), Augusta (+6.0 percent) and Charleston (+2.8 percent). Small losses occurred in Sumter (-3.2 percent).

Unemployment rates in October 2017 have declined in all metropolitan areas compared with October 2016. The largest decline (in percentage points) occurred in Augusta (-1.2). This was followed by Myrtle Beach (-0.8), Hilton Head (-0.7), Darlington (-0.7), Anderson (-0.6), Spartanburg (-0.5), Sumter (-0.5), Greenville (-0.5), Charleston (-0.5), Rock Hill (-0.5), Florence (-0.4) and Columbia (-0.3).

Cobras Fall to Eagles in South Atlantic Conference Action

JEFFERSON CITY, TENN. – The Coker College men's basketball team traveled to Carson-Newman on Saturday (Dec. 9) afternoon and fell to the Eagles in South Atlantic Conference action.

After Carson-Newman tallied the first bucket of the game, the Cobras gained their first lead of the contest with a 7-0 run with a Demarco Jackson jumper, Khalil Halls layup, and Donte Samuels three ball.

Minutes later, the Navy and Gold strung together an 8-2 run and took a 21-14 lead, thanks to three-pointers from Jake Barrett and Jackson. Nathan Lemke capped off the run with a jumper for the seven-point advantage.

The Eagles battled back for the remainder of the first half and took a 53-46 lead over the Cobras heading into the locker rooms.

The second half of play

began with the Eagles slowly creating more separation from the Cobras. Trailing by 13 with ten minutes remaining, the Cobras strung together seven consecutive points from two made free throws by Marquis Green, a three-pointer from Jackson, and a Dakota Jennings dunk to trail by just seven. However, the comeback would fall short as the Eagles finished strong down the stretch.

Samuels led the way for the Navy and Gold, recording 17 points off 8-14 shooting and adding a team-best six rebounds. Barrett chipped in 16 points and added four assists, while Halls finished with 14 points and two assists.

The Cobras will be back in action on Wednesday (Dec. 13) when they travel to Tusculum to take on the Pioneers in a South Atlantic Conference game. Opening tip is set for 8 p.m.

SCISA executive director retires

ORANGEBURG – The long-time Executive Director of the South Carolina Independent School Association announced his retirement to the association's full Board of Directors' meeting Thursday, Dec. 7.

Larry K. Watt, who has headed the organization for 31 years, will step down effective June 1, 2018.

Dr. Spencer A. Jordan, currently the Head of School at Laurence Manning Academy, the association's largest school located in Manning, has been chosen to replace Watt.

"I am honored by the board's confidence in me to

lead the most comprehensive educational service association in the nation," Jordan said. "SCISA's offerings in professional development, student activities, and athletics cannot be matched."

Jordan will be responsible for the association's strategic planning, current programs, and daily operations.

The new Executive Director has spent his career in SCISA, serving in all capacities of independent education. He has been married to his wife, Kimberly, for 18 years, and they have two children, Jake and Mickey.

Your kids' FOMO is not worth more holiday debt

By Jeff Dixon

With the holidays upon us, parents are making a list and checking it twice. And that list seems to be getting longer ... while the bank account gets smaller.

That often happens when kids catch an acute case of FOMO during the holiday season. The "Fear of Missing Out" includes not getting some of the gifts they want, or the latest, cool things their friends are receiving.

So mom and dad go way over the family budget. They hit the credit cards, and the holiday bills climb. After all, overspending on gifts and beginning the New Year with added debt is as much a holiday tradition as mistletoe and stockings hung by the chimney with care.

"Many adults annually prove they have not learned their lesson, and it's an expensive one that keeps adding up," says Jeff Dixon, a financial educator.

"Discipline is a prerequisite for financial stability, and this kind of chronic overspending of money they don't really have certainly doesn't bode well for a family budget, let alone a retirement plan. But habits can change, and the sooner the better."

Dixon gives four tips for how to keep holiday shopping reasonable and avoid excessive debt:

- Look at the big picture. Credit card use means putting off paying for something you didn't have the money for. So forecast what that mounting credit card bill will add to your regular monthly expenses. "The long-term pain isn't worth the short-term gain of getting the kids everything they wanted and more," Dixon says. "Seeing their smiles on Christmas morning is nice, but you also have to see on paper the money crunch ahead; that can act as a deterrent."
- Use one card. If you must use a credit card, Dixon

says, put the rest of your cards aside and use the one with the lowest interest rate. This also makes it easier to track your spending. "If the one card is included in your budget, fine, but remember you're paying interest each month," Dixon says. "You need to impose a holiday limit on the card."

- Make a real budget. It's the easiest thing to do before all the shopping. Set up a budget each year as to what you can afford to spend (for example, \$600 = \$50 per month) and set this aside each month in order to have the money you expect to spend. But for many people it's the hardest thing to execute when they're out shopping. "They lose willpower," Dixon says. "It gets to be a little like gambling; you have to decide how much you can afford to lose, or how much you'll go over without being totally stretched in January and beyond."
- Make it a teaching moment. The holidays are a great time to teach your kids

about money, a lesson that could last a lifetime. It's not a matter of being Scrooge; it's about showing them money doesn't grow on Christmas trees. Most families have budgets, and part of being responsible means not overspending. "The greater good of the family is served rather than immediate gratification," Dixon says. "They'll learn something meaningful about money, appreciation and responsibility that will stay with them when they have families of their own."

"If more parents could apply these forms of financial discipline during the holidays," Dixon says, "it would greatly help them develop a long-term financial plan, as well as greatly help their kids."

About Jeff Dixon
Jeff Dixon is known as "The Retirement Coach" and is the founder and president of Northwest Financial & Tax Solutions, Inc. Jeff hosts a weekly radio show that airs on seven stations.

Darlington Pilot Club hosts Light-A-Light

On December 4th Mayor Gloria Hines joined members of the Pilot Club of Darlington and guests in front of the City Administration Building for the lighting of the Light-A-Light Christmas tree. The tree's lights are symbols of the donations made to the Pilot Club in honor of or in memory of special people. Light-A-Light donations become part of the scholarship fund for a deserving high school senior in Darlington each year.

The following donations have been made in honor of these individuals:

Kim Blackmon; Kayse Blackmon; and Jimmy Blackmon by B. J. Blackmon.

Junior Clark by Angie Dority.

Sharon D. Floyd; William Dority, Sr.; and Anna Dority by Angie and Bill Dority, Jr.

My family members by Janice Flowers.

Gray Fail; Trey Gibbs; Ian Fail; Jacen Fail; Carlisle Griggs; Catherine Fail; and Logan Gibbs by Jennifer Griggs.

Jonan Runyon; Maggie Runyon; Ryan Runyon; Joe Runyon; Lauren E. Odom; and Nancy Derminer by Rosa Lee Heiden.

Jeannye Greer; Ruth Flowers; Judy Langley; Eloise Smyre; Miriam Campbell; Christine Hursey; and Ginger Ridgill by Martha Griggs.

Dr. Bill Boyd; Donna Segars; and Dr. Jane Hursey by Pearl Jeffords.

Kyla Riggins by Angel Kemmerlin.

Doris Young by Mr. and Mrs. Parrish Lambert and Family.

Roy, Maggie, Royce and Rivers Blackmon; Jason, Laura, Langley and Gracie Smith; The

Pilot Club of Darlington; Maceo Haynesworth; Wilbur and Donna Vaughan; Henry and Tania Bailey; Wallace and Eleanor Haynes; Jim and Dot Stone; David Vaughan; and Chesley Benjamin by Rodney and Judy Langley.

Harriet Perkins; Rosa Lee Heiden; Miriam Campbell; Jeannette Adams; Elizabeth Adams; Melissa Schwier; B. J. Blackmon; Happy Haynes; Belinda Copeland; Brenda Tiller; Jeanette Harrison; Peggy Ruthven; Ruth Flowers; Jane Baldwin; Mary Scott; Kirby Register; and Frank Cole by Nancy Lee.

Frances Manning by Kim Nelson.

Charlie and Denise Weatherford by the Pilot Club of Darlington.

Gracyn and Pierce Benton; SCDNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries; SCDNR Law Enforcement; and Love Sunday School Class by Ginger Ridgill.

Dona Jo, Berry, Brycen, and Brayden Brown; Timmy, Gillie, and Garrett Revell; Tony, Pam, and Ramsey Sherrill; Trey, Stacie, Makyla, and Blake Weinberg; Trina and Carol Weinberg and Family by Don and Peggy Ruthven.

Riley Schurlknight by Wendy Schurlknight.

Gracie Smith; Langley Smith; Royce Blackmon; and Rivers Blackmon by Jason and Laura Smith.

The following donations have been made in memory of these individuals:

Edna McClam; Van Hudson; Jeff Lee; Billy Blackmon; Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gibson; James Singletary; and Ruth H. Singletary by B. J. Blackmon.



Laurie Lawson, William DuBose, and Joey Howle by Carman Brown.

Happy Clark by George Clark.

Ron Scott by Belinda Copeland.

Happy Clark; Laura Gandy; Mary Clark; and George Clark by Angie Dority.

Juliet Dority by Angie and Bill Dority.

Nell and Leslie Newsome by Janice Flowers.

Erskine C. Griggs, Sr. by Jennifer Griggs.

Oleene Gettys; Georgie Jordan; and Bobbie Langston by Martha Griggs.

Beverlie Hudson; James C. Hudson; Henry Hudson; and

N. Hartley Odom by Rosa Lee Heiden.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Flowers; Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Jeffords; Eli Flowers; Woodrow Isgett; and Ed Hursey by Pearl Jeffords.

Tommy Britt; Rudell Britt; Chester McQueen; Mary McQueen; and Jean Ellis by Angel Kemmerlin.

Bobbie Constance Rouse by Randi Rouse Kirkley.

Maria Young Manuel; Richard Lambert; Mr. and Mrs. Wilburn Manuel, Sr.; Edward James "Bo" Young, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Crosby; Toby Lambert; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lee Lambert; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bryant; and Mr.

George Bryant by Mr. and Mrs. Parrish Lambert and Family.

John and Margaret Frank; Horace and Laura Langley; Carol Gerring; Laurie Lawson; Oleene Gettys; Margaret Parnell; Rosa Hudson; Peggy Cross; Ron Scott; Tommy Britt; Frank Burch; Jay Cox; and Jean Byrd Taylor by Rodney and Judy Langley.

Oleene Gettys; Laurie Lawson; Peggy Cross; Lenora Elmore; Ron Scott; Margaret Parnell; Rosa Hudson; Billie Peavy; Roy Peavy; Newell Lee; Jeff Lee; Mable Johnston; and Sarah Wilson by Nancy Lee.

Janie McMillian by Kim Nelson.

Russell N. Odom; Charles Lide Kelly, Sr.; Levon Player Kelly; Sarah Kelly Isgett; Cindy Kelly McKinley; Wanda Kelly Pierce; Jada Isgett Goodman; and Mattie Pilgrim by Anita Pohl Odom.

Andrew Willoughby and Edith M. Willoughby by Andrea W. Pooler.

Billy Weinberg; Emma L. and Bill Sherrill; Lena M. and Thad Weinberg; Lois and Otis Ruthven; and Ila and Billy Marshall by Don and Peggy Ruthven.

Carol Gerring; Horace Langley; Laura Langley; John Frank; Margaret Frank; and Ron Scott by Jason and Laura Smith.

How to cut back on this year's holiday waste

The holiday season is a joyful time of year. But the weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day also tend to be very wasteful. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household waste increases by more than 25 percent during the holiday season.

Reducing waste come the holiday season does not mean celebrants have to forgo big family meals or beautifully wrapped gifts. In fact, there are several ways to reduce waste without spoiling the spirit of the season.

- Give eco-conscious gifts. The environment may not be the first thing that comes to mind when holiday shoppers are looking for gifts for their loved ones. But giving reusable gifts can have a positive, long-term impact on the planet. Reusable coffee mugs or water bottles can dramatically reduce waste over time, and such items make great stocking stuffers. Shoppers also can look for items made from recycled materials, which run the gamut from home furnishings to calendars to clothing,

as eco-friendly alternatives to gifts produced without the environment in mind.

- Reuse holiday-specific items. Many people only use gift wrap, gift boxes and gift bags during the holiday season. Such items are often-times discarded after Christmas morning. But these items can be reused to cut back on holiday waste. Reusing wrapping paper from year to year can be especially beneficial to the environment. That's because wrapping paper tends to be dyed or laminated, and many wrapping papers contain non-paper additives that cannot be recycled. Reusing wrapping paper, purchasing only recyclable paper or wrapping gifts in old newspapers or magazines can help holiday celebrants reduce their carbon footprints.
- Prepare less food and donate any leftovers. The Worldwatch Institute notes that, during the holiday season, celebrants generate three times as much food waste as they do during other times of the year. Large family meals are a tradition of the

holiday season, but hosts who routinely find themselves discarding leftovers can plan on preparing less food this year. Consider how much guests are likely to eat and plan meals accordingly instead of buying enough food to feed a small army. Donate leftovers to nearby shelters so nothing goes to waste.

- Recycle live Christmas trees. According to the National Christmas Tree Association, 25.9 million real trees were sold in the United States in 2015. Trees put out on the curb for collection after the holiday season has ended typically end up in landfills, but some communities recycle Christmas trees each year. Real tree enthusiasts can contact community officials to determine if they can recycle rather than discard their trees.

The holiday season is a wasteful time of year, but there are ways for celebrants to dramatically reduce their carbon footprints between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

"Project Holiday" educates the public about holiday fire hazards

While most of us connect the holidays with Christmas trees, festive meals, flickering lights and other decorations, far fewer of us associate these holiday hallmarks with potential fire hazards. However, holiday decorations, Christmas trees, candles and cooking all contribute to an increased number of home fires during December, making it one of the leading months for U.S. home fires.

To help everyone enjoy a fire-safe holiday season, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is launching its annual "Project Holiday" campaign, which works to educate the public about potential fire risks during the holidays, along with steps to minimize them.

Following are NFPA's holiday-related fire statistics:

- Holiday cooking:

While cooking fires are the leading cause of U.S. home fires and injuries year-round, Christmas Day ranked as the third leading day for home cooking fires in 2015 (behind Thanksgiving Day and the day before Thanksgiving, which ranked first and second, respectively.) On Christmas Day in 2015, there was a 72 percent increase in the number of home cooking fires as compared to a typical day.

- Christmas trees: Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they do occur, they're much more likely to be deadly than most other fires. One of every 32 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death, compared to an annual average of one death per 143 reported home fires.
- Candles: December is the peak time of year for home

candle fires. In 2015, the top three days for candle fires were Christmas Day, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. More than half (55 percent) of the December home decoration fires were started by candles, compared to one-third (32 percent) the remainder of the year.

- Holiday decorations: Between 2011 and 2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 840 home fires per year that began with decorations (excluding Christmas trees). These fires caused an annual average of two civilian deaths, 36 civilian injuries and \$11.4 million in direct property damage. One-fifth (19 percent) of these home decoration fires occurred in December. One-fifth (21 percent) of decoration fires started in the kitchen; one in seven started in the living room, family room or den.

Do you know Darlington County?

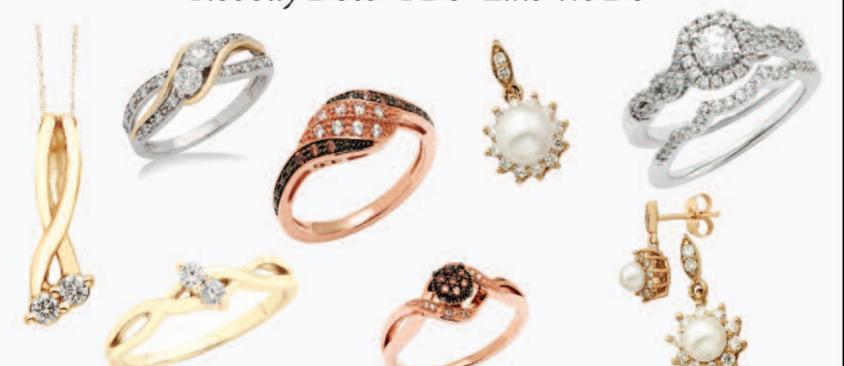


Today you will find a photo of an item that can be overlooked if you're walking by in a hurry. Do you know where it is? Please let us know by sending your guesses to: editor@newsandpress.net or call 843-393-3811. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Good luck!

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lifestyles

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Hartsville Community Chorus performs Christmas program

West Hartsville Baptist Church hosted an evening of seasonal music on Tuesday, December 5 as the Hartsville Community Chorus (directed by Dr. James Beaumier) performed "Carols from Around the World." The program included Christmas carols from England, France, Germany, Spain, Czechoslovakia, and African-American spirituals. The concert also featured vocals from the Hartsville Children's Chorale, and musical accompaniment by pianist Elaine Dickinson and flautists Faith Markle and Elizabeth Ropp.

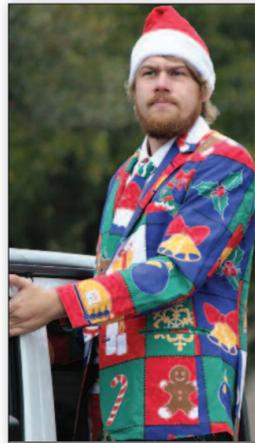
PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LYLES



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Hartsville

Despite the chilly temperatures, people lined the streets of Hartsville Dec. 9 to watch the annual Christmas Parade. Hats, gloves and blankets galore, everyone waited to catch a glimpse of the jolly man dressed in red and white who hitched a ride through the streets with his reindeer pals atop a city firetruck. Floats featured elves, gingerbread houses and everything adorned in festive red and green Christmas colors. Make sure to check newsandpress.net for more photos from the parade.

Photos by Melissa Rollins



Trinity-Byrnes student recognized for hitting monumental point



Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School basketball player Ayshia Scott was recently recognized for scoring her 1000th point!
PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Darlington Fire Department Awards



Congratulations to LT Perry Kelly for being chosen as the 2017 Darlington Firefighter of the Year! Photo Contributed



Johnny Deas was given the Darlington Fire Department 2017 Drake-Beckham award for outstanding volunteer! Photo Contributed

Mr. Mayo 2017-2018

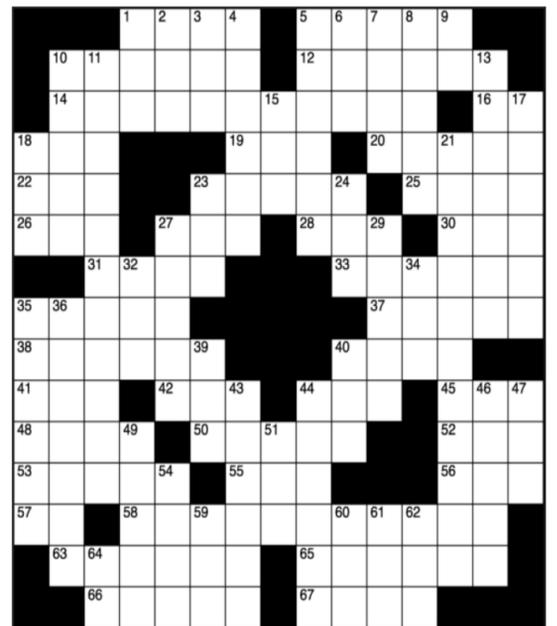


Mr. Mayo 2017-2018-
True-Allah Liles
1st Runner-up - Gabe Gainey

2nd Runner-up - Jackson Matthews
Talent winner - Kinton Jackson
Mr. Sexy Legs - True-Allah Liles

Mr. Mayo 2016-2017 -Landen Allen
Photo Contributed

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Large jug
5. Anwar __,
10. Punjab province capital
12. Evoke
14. Data
16. Exists
18. Supervises flying
19. Having eight
20. Right-handed page
22. NHL great Bobby
23. German municipality
25. Negotiate
26. Keyboard key
27. Youngster
28. Medical decision (abbr.)
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. One-time Levi's chairman Walter
33. Cold region
35. Type of plywood
37. A way to unfreeze
38. Winter melon
40. Dispute
41. An expression of imagination
42. Human gene
44. Touch lightly
45. Computer giant
48. Garlands

50. Franz van __, German diplomat
52. Vineyard
53. Elk or moose
55. Moved quickly
56. Swiss river
57. Rhode Island
58. Fall into disrepair
63. Ancient Roman virtue
65. Removes
66. Slovenly women
67. Comedian Rogen

DOWN

1. Extremely high frequency
2. Court
3. Make a mistake
4. Change the appearance of
5. Long-haired dog
6. The Greatest of All Time
7. Designer Christian
8. Blemished
9. Atlanta-based rapper
10. Deceivers
11. One who supports disorder
13. Colossal
15. A team's best pitcher
17. Comfort in a time of sadness

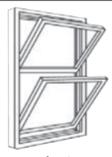
18. Opponent
21. Professionals might need one
23. Captures geographical data (abbr.)
24. Senior officer
27. Sacred Islamic site
29. Egyptian unit of capacity
32. Comedienne Gaster
34. Performer __ Lo Green
35. Having only magnitude, not direction
36. Cleft lip
39. Payroll company
40. Prohibit
43. Stroke
44. Does not acknowledge
46. Hillsides
47. Austrian river
49. Passover feast and ceremony
51. Golf score
54. Hair-like structure
59. Check
60. Extract metal from this
61. Tell on
62. Powdery residue
64. A part of the mind

WORD SEARCH

Z L R H G A U R P A S S R V H G K K Y R
A Y O E E T S Z E G V B A Y E T C E G E
U B C T O V Z S A C U V B T G E I K M K
G N I T H G I F I T Z T S L A K R C L C
R D B K Y U P D T S P E S A C C T U S O
E L A R E D N E B F T N O N A U T P H L
D F K P I O R M H A P I R E S B A V Y B
N U M L P F N D T D C Y C P D A H G C B
E G C R L L N E G N I K C E H C E R O F
F O H Y K R E L N U N H S M H K C L I Z
E A E E C H V A E Y L A O G D K R D K U
D L C N I A K Y R C H R A K H Y O O C V
T T K O T E Y B T A E E A K E A S F A E
B E E Z S S P T S T T C R G L E S F T P
P N D D H N P D L C A R R U M M C E T Y
B D G H N E I O L H G O C L E I H N A C
U E V S A F H A U E P F P O T D E S T S
F R Z H S E C P F R H N G B M Z C E M F
O F F S I D E A L L R E D N A H K C A B
S Z G D L K S N O I S S E S S O P A M L

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| APPLE | CROSSBAR | GOALTENDER |
| ASSIST | CROSS-CHECK | HAT TRICK |
| ATTACK | DEFENDER | HELMET |
| BACKHANDER | DEFENSE | NET |
| BENDER | DELAY | OFFENSE |
| BLOCKER | DIVE | OFFSIDE |
| BUCKET | ENFORCER | PASS |
| BUTTERFLY | FIGHTING | PENALTY |
| CAGE | FORE CHECKING | POSSESSION |
| CATCHER | FULL STRENGTH | PUCK |
| CHECKED | GATE | STICK |
| CHIPPY | GOAL | ZONE |

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Local groups collect over 23,000 boxes through Operation Christmas Child

Volunteers from the Pee Dee SC Area Team are celebrating the collection of 23,550 gift-filled shoeboxes through Operation Christmas Child that will remind children around the world they are loved and not forgotten.

The Pee Dee SC Area Team is now thanking the Darlington community for their generous contributions already on their way to children in need worldwide. For many of these children, the shoebox gift will be the first gift they ever receive.

Although collections have finished for the season, there is still time to pack a shoebox gift online for children affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine. Those who prefer the convenience of online shop-

ping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement. They can also donate \$9 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

Another way to share the gift of giving is by purchasing a \$25 gift card for a family member or friend so they can join in the excitement of Operation Christmas Child by packing a shoebox online. These shoeboxes—filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys—are delivered to children in some of the hardest-to-reach countries around the world.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child or to view gift suggestions, call 704-583-1463 or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 146 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

Darlington Police investigate armed robbery

On December 6, 2017 at approximately 8:13 pm a white male entered the Young's Convenient store on North Main Street in the city of Darlington armed with a knife and demanded money from the clerk. The subject left with an undisclosed amount of money. The subject was wearing a yellow and black reflective jacket. The clerk was not hurt during the incident. The public is asked to call Darlington Police Department at 843-398-4026 or Central Dispatch at 843-398-4920 if they have any information about the incident.

Hartsville House Fire

At midnight on Dec. 4, Darlington County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a residence in the 700 block of Railroad Ave. in Hartsville due to a structure fire. The Hartsville Fire Department and the Darlington County Fire District responded as well. Fire Department crews recovered a one-year-old child from the residence. The child was transported to an area hospital and died.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by Sheriff's Investigators and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has been requested to assist.

Sheriff announces promotions

Sheriff Tony Chavis has announced the promotion of three investigators currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division.

Sgt. Neal Cusack has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in command of the Criminal Investigations Division. Lt. Cusack has 30 years of law enforcement experience and has served under Sheriff Chavis since January 3, 2017.

Cpl. David Brown has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant within the Criminal Investigations Division. Sgt. Brown has 20 years of law enforcement experience and was sworn in by Sheriff Chavis on March 20, 2017.

Inv. Bobby Melton has been promoted to the rank of Corporal within the Criminal Investigations Division. Cpl. Melton has 18 years of law enforcement experience and was sworn in by Sheriff Chavis on March 20, 2017.

Person bitten by K9 during deputies' investigation

Darlington County Sheriff's Deputies were in the area of Kingston Dr. in the McBee area of Darlington County on Saturday evening investigating a burglary. Sheriff's Deputies believed the burglary suspect remained in the area and a K-9 unit was deployed to search for the suspect. During the search of the suspect a person was bitten by the K-9 unit.

Late night shooting was self-inflicted

McBee--Darlington County Sheriff's Patrol Deputies were dispatched to Clyde School Rd. in the McBee area of Darlington County around midnight Sunday due to a victim suffering a gunshot wound. It is believed to be self-inflicted. These incidents are rarely reported however, due to the heavy presence of first responders and the concern of the local community it is necessary to inform the public that this incident is isolated.

Solar panel-covered parking canopy will generate power

John Gouch,
Clemson University Relations

Clemson University and Duke Energy are partnering to bring more renewable energy to the campus, beginning with the development and installation of a solar panel-covered canopy over a campus parking lot near Memorial Stadium.

Clemson and Duke Energy Carolinas are partnering to put

solar panel-covered canopies similar to these over campus parking lots.

Harnessing power from the sun, the solar panels will generate one megawatt of electricity – about the equivalent of 33 percent of the power used by the stadium, according to Campus Utility Services Director Tony Putnam.

The planned solar canopy will cover spaces in the R-3

parking lot southwest of Memorial Stadium between Perimeter Road and Centennial Boulevard. It will provide shade over parked cars and could be designed with gutters between the panels to collect rainwater runoff.

Duke Energy Carolinas will lease space in the parking lot for the solar canopy and will install and maintain the solar system.

BOOKINGS REPORT

W. GLENN CAMPBELL DETENTION CENTER DECEMBER 4 THROUGH DECEMBER 11, 2017
INMATE NAME/AGE/BOOKING OFFENSE

Editor's note: The booking report represents a list of persons arrested given to the media from the W. Glenn Campbell Detention Center under the S.C. Freedom of Information Act.

All people are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Please be advised there are many people with similar names.

If listed here erroneously, please contact the detention center, which will send us any corrections. If a person is found not guilty in a court of law, that person may have that printed here as well by providing court documents to us to that effect.

• Jarret Darell Alford, 35, of 327 Birdnest Rd, Hartsville, Driving Under Suspension

• Reed Winchell Allen, 36, of 116 Windhold Rd, Hartsville, Burglary Second Degree

• Teaira Shakena Coe, 28, of South Park Apt N4, Hartsville, Petty Larceny <\$2000

• Edward John Desmond, 46, of 220 Spillway Dr, Darlington, Driving Under Suspension; Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation; Improper Vehicle License

• John Anthony Greene, 43, of 413 N Pennington Cir, Hartsville, Drugs/Man Dist Etc of Cocaine Base 1st

• Kenneth NMN McFadden, 63, of 612 McKeithen St, Hartsville, Public Disorderly Conduct

• Jonathan Wayne Parker, 21, of 613 Indian River Dr, Florence, Driving Under Suspension

• Daniel Tremaine Wilds, 20, of 416 E Richardson Cir, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000

CHARGES

ABHAN: Assault and battery, high and aggravated nature

DUAC: Driving under unlawful alcohol concentration

DUI: Driving under the influence

DUS: Driving under suspension

CDV: Criminal domestic violence

CDVHAN: Criminal domestic violence, high and aggravated nature

PDC: Public disorderly conduct

PWID: Possession with intent to distribute

SPOM: Simple possession of marijuana

• Ashley Lorriane Baker, 1861 S 5th Street, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000

• Kimberly Michelle Blackmon, 28, of 2472 Green St Rd, Darlington, Driving Under the Influence

• Atlanta Wayde Feagin, 25, of 515 Gause Canal Rd, Scranton, Shoplifting <\$2000

• Churistia Brooks Graves, 25, of 3517 Creek Myrtle Court, Myrtle Beach, Safekeeping

• Willie James Gunnell, 19, of 526 Cornelia Dr, Hartsville, Trespassing/Enter Public Library After Warning

• Erica Dawn Lavender, 30, of 603 Cedar, Myrtle Beach, Safekeeping

• Jessica Lynn Lilly, 36, of 832 Canal Street, Myrtle Beach, Safekeeping

• Ginger Faye Lloyd, 29, of 303 N Main St, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance

• Blake Lee Parks, 30, of 908 Wilkes Pond Road, Hartsville, Non Support; Non Support

• Jerome James Bonaparte, 49, of 100 Tedder St, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance

• Brad Olin Britt, 31, of 409 Racetrack Rd, Darlington, Entering Premises After Warning

• Leroy Brown, 59, of 406 Pine St, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance

• James Allen Freeman, 62, of 1249 Reggie Dr, Hartsville, Hit and Run Accident with Property Damage; Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation; DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 2nd

• Richard Eugene Gregory, 45, of 14835 Patrick Hwy, Chesterfield, Drugs/Disposal of Methamphetamine Waste 1st; Drugs/Manufacture of Meth 1st

• Lisa Marie Herring, 42, 813 Billy Farrow Rd, Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000; Obtain Sign/Prop Under False Pretense <\$2000; Petty Larceny <\$2000

• William Joshua Johnson, 25, 2027 Garden Valley Dr, Hartsville, Drugs/Manufacture Meth 1st; Drugs/Disposal of Methamphetamine Waste 1st; Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 1st

• James Albert Lewis, 43, of 2636 Robinson View Dr, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning; Shoplifting <\$2000

• Matthew Arnold Mayfield, 40, of 912 Lee State Park Road, Lamar, Trespassing; Shoplifting <\$2000

• Juan Jose Mejia-Contador, 23, of 777 Tremont Ave, Columbia, Safekeeping

• Holly Renee Clark, 41, of

425 Weaver St, Darlington, Shoplifting <\$2000

• Willie Joe Goodwin II, 34, of 204 Gabriel Street, Columbia, Driving Under Suspension; Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 3rd or Sub

• Benjamin Andrew Hill, 41, of 3305 Olanta Rd, Effingham, Armed Robbery Armed With Deadly Weapon; Poss of a Weapon During Violent Crime

• Michael Phillip Howard, 29, of 611 W Sumter St, Florence, Malicious Injury to Personal Property <\$2000

• Calvin Jackson, 49, of 1312 Dovesville Hwy, Hartsville, Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation; DUS (License Not Susp DUI) 2nd; Poss Other Controlled Sub in Sched I to V 1st

• Timothy Deon Jordan, 30, of 603 E Broad Street, Darlington, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree

• Peter Ronald Loos, 31, of 4845 Ribbon Rd, Sumter, Driving Under Suspension; Traffic/Expired Vehicle License; Furnish Contraband County/Municipal Prisons; Poss <1 Gram of Meth or Cocaine Base 1st

• Lawrence Brian Lovelace, 34, of 220 Lakegrove Drive, Darlington, Assault and Battery 3rd Degree; Pedestrian Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

• Deborah Meisha Sanders, 25, of 1555 West Market Street, Cheraw, Driving Under Suspension; DUI/Driving Under the Influence .08 1st; Fail to Return Lic Plate/Registration 1st Off; Violation of Beginner Permit; Open Container Beer/Wine; Uninsured Motor Vehicle Fee Violation

• Kristy Leigh Winburn, 40, of 1028 Howle Street, Hartsville, Driving Under Suspension

• Grady Dustin Gainey, 32, of 1201 E Bobo Newsome Hwy,

Hartsville, Shoplifting <\$2000

• Willie Vankyetric Hannibal II, 33, of 1201 N Fifth Street, Hartsville, Driving Under Suspension; Hit and Run with Minor Personal Injury

• Frankie Lee Holloway, 57, of 116 Reid St, Darlington, Poss 28G or Less Marij/10G or Less Hash 1st; Violation of City Ordinance

• Travis E Kirkland, 54, of 208 Plaza Rd, Lamar, Weekender

• Blake Lee Parks, 30, of 908 Wilkes Pond Road, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning

• Carroll Delano Powell, 51, of 212 Harts St, Darlington, Violation of City Ordinance; Shoplifting <\$2000

• Darius Tyquan Reed, 23, of 340 Security Drive, Hartsville, Giving False Information; Malicious Injury to Property; Malicious Injury to Property; Assault and Battery 3rd Degree

• Edward NMN Samuel, 29, of 2326 Savanna Grove, Effingham, Leaving Scene of Accident Unattended Vehicle; Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle 1st Off

• Jiminez Cabrera Santos, 69, of 1233 Lakeview Blvd, Hartsville, Simple Assault

• James Bernard Addison, 47, of 508 Davis St, Bishopville, Violation of City Ordinance

• Horit Brown, 42, of 1236 Jordan Road, Lake City, Secure Prop by Fraud Impersonation of Officer

• Amanda Brittany Huntley, 31, of 2151 Huntmill Rd, Chesterfield, Poss Other Controlled Sub in Sched I to V 1st; Poss Sched I B C LSD/Sched II 1st; Manuf Possess Schedule IV Drugs WITD 1st

• Malaja Christina Stevenson, 19, of 836 Harvester Ln, Darlington, Shoplifting <\$2000

• Olivia Symone Sweetenburgh, 23, of 4810

Gilbert Rd, Hartsville, Traffic/Following Vehicle Too Closely; Driving Under Suspension; Hit and Run Accident with Property Damage; Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle 1st

• Sidney Lee Swinney, 64, of 1504 Millwood Rd, Darlington, Driving Under the Influence

• Eric Vincencha Rosell Thomas, 29, of 517 S Sansbury Rd, Timmonsville, DUS License Not Susp for DUI 3rd or Sub

• Alexus Irene Womack, 21, of 1221 E McIver Rd, Darlington, Shoplifting <\$2000

• Carla Michelle Bissette, 49, of 523 Stanley Circle, Darlington, Hit and Run Accident With Property Damage; Hit and Run Accident With Property Damage; Giving False Information

• Tory Tyrell Boyd, 32, of 137 Reddick Rd, Bishopville, Driving Under the Influence

• Daniel Wade Brumett, 30, of 2272 Ruby Road, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning

• Kevin Lamar Holloman, 41, of 2260 Grandview Dr, Florence, Public Disorderly Conduct

• George Edward Jackson, 68, of 911 Lynn Haven, Hartsville, Entering Premises After Warning

• Delia Shandrica Johnson, 28, of 2205 Sunnyfields Dr, Hartsville, No Charge Data

• Darreus Levern Mack, 29, of 1408 Willow Trace Dr Apt C, Florence, Telephone/Unlawful Use of Telephone

• John Richard Newsome, 33, of 123 Golf Course Rd, Hartsville, Driving Under Suspension

• Elizabeth Nicole Polston, 25, of 160 Stone Rd, Darlington, Giving False Information; Operating Uninsured Motor Vehicle 1st Off

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Grassroots leaders recognized at 74th South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation Convention

Myrtle Beach, S.C. — The South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation (SCFB) opened its 74th Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach Dec. 1, highlighted by a number of awards and a State of Farm Bureau address from SCFB President Harry Ott.

Nearly 1,000 Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered not just to prepare for the year ahead, but also to celebrate accomplishments of volunteers and progress made in the General Assembly. More than 100 individuals were recognized for their dedication to SCFB at this year's convention.

South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers greeted attendees Thursday night at the Government Relations awards dinner. He spoke on the importance of farmers and agriculture in our state. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duval, a Georgia farmer, updated members on Friday morning about issues Farm Bureau will face in 2018. Glen Ward, an inspirational speaker and professional, delivered the opening session keynote address Friday morning.

South Carolina legislators Representative Bill Hixon (R-Aiken) and Senator Shane Massey (R-Edgefield) received 2017 SCFB Legislator of the Year awards for going above and beyond in their duties to support family farmers in South Carolina through key legislation. Both legislators have been dependable supporters of Farm Bureau, leading the way for agriculture, agribusiness and family farmers at the statehouse.

Five individuals were named the 2017 Government Relations All-Stars for their progressive advocacy of SCFB's priority issues in the General Assembly. They were Bert Judy (Dorchester), Matt Sims (Greenville), George Bryant (Pickens), Charlie Whiten (Oconee) and Billy Abercrombie (Laurens). Each received a clock representing the time they dedicated to the work of Farm Bureau.

Glen and Marilyn Easter (Laurens) received SCFB's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, as the highlight of the Awards and Recognition Program Dec. 1. The Easters have given greatly to SCFB through their countless hours of dedication and selfless volunteerism to

agriculture in South Carolina. The Easters are leaders in the dairy industry and have contributed to agriculture in their hometown, state, nation and even internationally.

Case Chumley (Spartanburg) took home an EZ-Go Golf Cart, \$500 in STIHL merchandise and \$250 cash after winning the SCFB Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet. Chumley competed against nine other contestants in a face-to-face discussion about agricultural issues today's farmers are facing.

Two farm families — Whitney and Lynne Farr (Spartanburg) and Davis Peeler (Anderson) — were named finalists in the 2018 SCFB Young Farmer and Rancher Achievement Award Contest. As finalists, each farm family received a check for \$1,000 compliments of the Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company. They also have the opportunity to win a new Ford truck.

Finalists for the SCFB Young Farmer and Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award were also announced. They are Zack

Snipes (Charleston), Case and Taryn Chumley (Spartanburg) and Jesse and Tracy Miskely (York). The finalists will be competing for the opportunity to win \$500 and a Polaris ATV.

The contest winner for both the Achievement Award and the Excellence in Agriculture Award will be announced in January at the 2018 SCFB Young Farmer & Rancher Conference in Greenville. State winners also have the opportunity to travel to the 2019 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in New Orleans to compete nationally against other state contest winners.

Each year, one South Carolina educator receives the Betty J. DeWitt Outstanding Educator Award. This year Ashley Bennett, a teacher at Woodruff Middle School in Spartanburg County, received the award plus \$500. The award is presented to a teacher of grades K-12 who has designed and implemented a lesson plan about the food and fiber industry.

Devin Moore (Lexington) and Katie Martin (Anderson)

were named the winners of the 2018 SCFB Youth Ambassador Scholarship Contest. Each received \$150 in cash and a college scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

The annual meeting came to a close after the business meeting of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, where two individuals were re-elected to positions on the organization's Executive Committee, including SCFB Coastal District vice president Landy Weathers (Orangeburg) and SCFB Pee Dee District vice president Ray Galloway (Darlington). Harry Ott was also re-elected as SCFB president.

South Carolina Farm Bureau is a grassroots, non-profit organization celebrating and supporting family farmers, locally grown food, and our rural lands through legislative advocacy, education, and community outreach. By connecting farmers to the larger community, Farm Bureau cultivates understanding about agriculture's importance to South Carolina's local economies. To learn more, log on to scfb.org.

Darlington native promoted to Army brigadier general

FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- Almost 30 years ago an Army battalion commander told a young second lieutenant from Darlington, South Carolina, he would make sure she would never be promoted to first lieutenant because women had no place in the Army.

"I said, 'Sir I'll be here when you retire.'" And low and behold, I was there shaking his hand and saying thank you for your service, when he retired," said Twanda (Williamson) Young.

After decades of climbing the ranks, Young was promoted to brigadier general during a ceremony here, Dec. 1.

That negative comment so early in her career only further deepened her determination to succeed. But just a few years earlier, Young had never thought about joining the Army until a college friend at Claflin University, where she was earning an English degree on a full scholarship, suggested she check out ROTC. Determined she would have a job upon graduation so she wouldn't have to move back home with her parents, she signed up for ROTC at South Carolina State University as a cross-enrollment student from Claflin. She went on to earn two Master's degrees from Ball State University.

"I didn't initially plan on it being a career, I was just happy to have a job to go to after college," Young said. "I loved it so I just stayed with it."

Over the last three decades, she has held numerous leadership assignments at the battalion, brigade, joint task force and strategic command levels. She commanded the Continental United States Replacement Center Battalion at Fort Benning, Georgia, and the Army Reserve Theater Support Group in Fort Shafter, Hawaii. She deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where she served as the CJ1 chief of the Strategic Initiatives Group.

Prior to assuming her current position as the deputy-commanding general for U.S. Army Human Resources Command, she was the U.S. Army Reserve G-1 responsible for military personnel management, personnel policy devel-



opment, personnel strength accounting and readiness of the Army Reserve.

As the DCG for U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky, she will assist the commanding general in executing the full spectrum of human resources programs that develop leaders, build Army readiness, and promote and sustain the well-being of Soldiers, veterans and their families.

One of only a handful of female African-American Army generals, Young never dreamed she'd ever become a general. But throughout her career, she said her goal was to continually work to increase and enhance the effectiveness of the Army's human resources programs and be approachable to staff, regardless of her rank.

"I want the Soldiers, civilians and contractors who work alongside me to be able to approach me with their concerns and share their ideas. I don't want rank to impede that," Young said. "There are sergeants and specialists who have great ideas, so never judge a book by its cover."

We're here to make sure that whatever commander for whom we're working can meet his or her objectives. I can only do that if the staff is able to come to me, talk to me and have that good dialogue so that I'm able to give feedback to the commander so he or she is able to make an informed decision."

Young believes the keys to her success has been the good home foundation provided by her parents, faith and the integrity to stay true to her word and never waiver on doing the right thing.

She has six siblings, one of whom retired from the Army. Her husband is from Simpsonville, South Carolina. They have two daughters.

Darlington County Young Farmer recognized

Ty Woodard, Darlington County Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee member, received a special achievement award on behalf of Darlington County from SCFB State Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Committee Chair Davis Peeler during the organization's 74th Annual Meeting held recently in Myrtle Beach.

Darlington County Farm Bureau was recognized for having one of the top Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers programs in the state during 2017.

South Carolina Farm Bureau is a grassroots, non-profit organization that celebrates and supports family farmers, locally grown food and our rural lands through legislative advocacy, education and community outreach. The organization, founded in 1944, serves more than 100,000 member families in 47 chapters. For more information, please visit www.scfb.org.



Ty Woodard, Darlington County Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee member, received a special achievement award on behalf of Darlington County.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Blackmon-Chapman, Inc. intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and on premises consumption of Beer, Wine, and Liquor at 1125 N. Main Street, Darlington, SC 29532. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be post-marked no later than Dec. 14, 2017. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

(1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;

(2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied;

(3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);

(4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,

(5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed.

Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, Attn: ABL, PO Box 125, Columbia, S.C. 29214; or faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

(20p3 leave in thru 12-13-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES

All persons having claims against the following estates MUST file their claims on Form #371ES with the Probate Court of Darlington County, the address of which is Room 208 Courthouse, One Public Square, Darlington, SC 29532, within eight(8) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice to Creditors or within one (1) year from date of death, whichever is earlier (SCPC 62-3-801, et seq.), or such persons shall be forever barred as to their claims. All claims are required to be presented in written statements on the prescribed form (FORM #371ES) indicating the name and the address of the claimant, the basis of the claim, the amount claimed, the date when the claim will become due, the nature of any uncertainty as to the claim and a description of any security as to the claim. Estate: David W Byrd AKA

David William Byrd

Date of Death: 11/2/2017

Case No: 2017ES1600562

Personal Representative: Cathleen Strickland Byrd

Address: 2529 Byrdtown Road, Hartsville, SC 29550

(21p3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

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Estate: Robert H Byrd, Jr

Date of Death: 11/8/2017

Case No: 2017ES1600560

Personal Representative: Brenda D Byrd

Address: 2801 Indian Branch Road, Hartsville, SC 29550

(21p3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

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Estate: George W Kornegay

Date of Death: 11/8/2017

Case No: 2017ES1600568

Personal Representative: Jeffrey Sean Kornegay

Address: 1471 Bethan Drive, Summerfield, NC 27358

(21p3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

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Estate: John David Grainger, Jr

Date of Death: 8/19/2017

Case No: 2017ES1600551

Personal Representative: John D Grainger

Address: PO Box 58, Darlington, SC 29540

Attorney: Gena Phillips Ervin

Address: PO Box 2527, Florence, SC 29503-2527

(21c3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

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Personal Representative: John D Grainger

Address: PO Box 58, Darlington, SC 29540

Attorney: Gena Phillips Ervin

Address: PO Box 2527, Florence, SC 29503-2527

(21c3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

SUMMONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF DARLINGTON IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2017-CV-16-10100558

Southern Lease Management Group, LLC, Plaintiff,

v.

Bobby Blakney, Defendant

TO THE DEFENDANT BOBBY BLAKNEY:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer to said

Complaint upon the Hartsville Magistrate Court located at 404 South Fourth Street, Hartsville, SC 29824 within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the original Summons and Complaint were filed in the Hartsville Magistrate Court for Darlington County, South Carolina on June 9, 2017.

Drew B. Walker

Attorney for Plaintiff

Rogers Lewis Jackson Mann & Quinn, LLC

1901 Main Street, Suite 1200

Post Office Box 11803

(29211)

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 978-2836

email: dwalker@rogers-lewis.com

(21c3 leave in thru 12-20-17)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that Maruti Skand, Inc. intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and off premises consumption of Beer and Wine at 1102 S. Main Street, Darlington, SC 29532. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than Dec. 28, 2017. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information:

(1) the name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest;

(2) the specific reasons why the application should be denied;

(3) that the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant);

(4) that the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and,

(5) the name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed.

Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, Attn: ABL, PO Box 125, Columbia, S.C. 29214; or faxed to: (803) 896-0110.

(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

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Estate: Ann Poston Jordan

Date of Death: 10/17/2017

Case No: 2017ES1600578

Personal Representative: Lide Kadell Jordan

Address: 900 E Saint Paul Road, Timmonsville, SC 29161

(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

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Estate: Betty McCaskill Kirven

AKA Betty M Kirven

Date of Death: 11/7/2017

Case No: 2017ES1600572

Personal Representative: Sarah K Garland

Address: 127 Alabama Drive, Darlington, SC 29532

(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

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Estate: Joyce Ann McKenzie

Date of Death: 11/6/2017

Case No: 2017ES1600575

Personal Representative: Penny McKenzie Hall

Address: 1961 Tomahawk Road, Lamar, SC 29069

(22p3 leave in thru 12-27-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATES



NOON FRIDAY AD DEADLINE
Call 393-3811, fax 393-6811 or e-mail
customerservice@newsandpress.net.

classifieds

DECEMBER 13, 2017 | PAGE 5B
THE NEWS AND PRESS, DARLINGTON, S.C.

WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices
Burt Jordan REALTORS
117 Erivine Court, Darlington, SC 29532
843-393-4010

OFFICE FOR RENT!

123 Erivine Court—Office building with reception area, 3 offices and lots of storage. Office is located inside the Country Club on Erivine Court (first turn to the right after turning in DCC). **\$850.00 per month plus security deposit.**

APARTMENT FOR RENT

116-1 Medford Drive—Available Jan. 1st—2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment located off Spring Street. There is a \$25.00 application fee. **Rents for \$550 per month and \$550 Security Deposit.**

RESIDENTIAL

418 Spring Street—3 BR, 1.5 BA, 1300 SF—**\$97,900**
634 Old Georgetown Rd—3 BR, 4 BA, 3620 SF—**\$525,000**
111 Maryland Drive—4 BR, 3 BA, 2962 SF—**\$184,900**
419 N. Main Street—4 BR, 2F/2H BA, 2689 SF—**\$149,900**
1044 Harmony Hall—4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2475 SF—**\$184,900**

LAND

TBD Cashua Ferry Road—57 Acres—**\$15,900**
TBD First Street—37 Acres—**\$12,900**
TBD Lamar Highway—3.81 Acres—**\$16,900**
1011 Pearl Street—1.59 Acres—**\$89,900**
117.89 Acres New Hopewell Rd—**\$295,000**
Timmonsville Highway—25.74—**\$128,700**
TBD S. Main Street—56 Acres—**\$20,000**
TBD Pink Dogwood Street—2 Lots—**\$24,000 Per Lot**
Harry Byrd Hwy—9.62 Acres—**\$110,800**
Harry Byrd Hwy—7 Acres—**\$80,500**
Lot 43 Nez Perce Drive—1 Acre—**\$30,000**

COMMERCIAL

447 W. Broad Street—**\$34,750**
307 Washington Street—**\$34,900**
207 Siskoon Street—**\$125,000**
321 N. Main Street—**\$84,900**
103-105 Russell Street—**\$95,000**
213 N. Marquis Hwy—**\$690,000**
601 Pearl Street—**\$90,000**
1005 E. McIver Road—**\$129,900**

FOR LEASE

123 Erivine Court—**\$850.00/Monthly**
213 S. Main Street—**\$2,500/Monthly**

UNDER CONTRACT

Lot 65 Nez Perce Drive **1044 Harmony Hall**
Timmonsville Highway

SOLD

1011 Pearl Street **N. Springville Road**

PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE FOR INFO ON ALL OF OUR LISTINGS!

FOR FULL LISTINGS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
CALL 393-4010 OR LOG ONTO WWW.BURTJORDAN.COM

Burt Jordan
Broker-In-Charge
260-4138
Tommy Bryant
Realtor
615-1795
Angie Godbold
Realtor
758-0472
Ginger Perry
Realtor
307-1428

Odom's Mini Storage

1009 N. Main St.
Darlington, SC

393-1327 or 393-9071



GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Struggling with DRUGS or ALCOHOL? Addicted to PILLS? Talk to someone who cares. Call The Addiction Hope & Help Line for a free assessment. 866-604-6857
SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! We have recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 855-669-2515

Lung Cancer? And Age 60+? You And Your Family May Be Entitled To Significant Cash Award. Call 855-664-5681 for information. No Risk. No money out-of-pocket.

Tuesday, December 19, 2017 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Game: (SC904) WIN BIG Social Security Disability? Up to \$2,671/mo. (Based on paid-in amount.) FREE evaluation! Call Bill Gordon & Associates. 1-800-614-3945. Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL., member TX/NM Bar.

DENTAL INSURANCE. Call Physicians Mutual Insurance Company for details. NOT just a discount plan, REAL coverage for 350 procedures. 855-397-7030 or http://www.dental50plus.com/60 Ad#6118

AUCTIONS
ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Alanna Ritchie at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

BUSINESS EQUIPMENT FOR SALE
USED PHARMACY SHELVING and Counters, Gondola shelving, Pallet racking, Coolers & Freezers, Safes and much more. 704-393-9302. RSFNC.com. We buy used Pallet racking.

EDUCATION
AIRLINE MECHANIC TRAINING - Get FAA certification to fix planes. Approved for military benefits. Financial Aid if qualified. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 866-367-2513

HELP WANTED - CONSTRUCTION
CARPENTERS (& Helpers, Form Crews and Laborers) needed - in Charleston, SC area. MUST have experience in forming walls, slabs, suspended slabs/columns. Call (770) 761-5578, (470) 241-3481 or (843) 990-9710 and leave message. Crowder Construction: E-verify, drug testing, EEO/AA/Minorities/Females/Disabilities/Veterans employer. See all opportunities and official application at www.crowderusa.com.

HELP WANTED - DRIVERS
J. GRADY RANDOLPH - Now hiring company drivers and owner operators. Company drivers pay 50 cents per mile for oversize loads. Owner operators pay 1.40 per mile. Call today (864) 761-0992 or apply online drive4jgr.com.

ADVERTISE YOUR DRIVER JOBS in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers. Call Alanna Ritchie at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

HELP WANTED - SALES
EARN \$500 A DAY: Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance Wants Insurance Agents • Leads, No Cold Calls • Commissions Paid Daily • Agency Training • Life License Required. Call 1-888-713-6020

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE
OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill. No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 844-597-6582

TELEVISION & INTERNET SERVICES
NEW AT&T INTERNET OFFER. \$20 and \$30/mo. plans available when you bundle. 99% Reliable 100% Affordable. HURRY, OFFER ENDS SOON. New Customers Only. CALL NOW 1-855-825-2669
DIRECTV. Call & Switch Now - Get NFL Sunday Ticket for FREE! Every Game. Every Sunday. CHOICE All-Included Package. Over 185 Channels. \$60/month (for 12 Months.) CALL - 844-624-1107
DISH Network. 190+ Channels. FREE Install. FREE Hopper HD-DVR. \$49.99/month (24 mos) Add High Speed Internet - \$14.95 (where avail.) CALL Today & SAVE 25%! 1-877-542-0759
Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-877-649-9469
Exede satellite internet Affordable, high speed broadband satellite internet anywhere in the U.S. Order now and save \$100. Plans start at \$39.99/month. Call 1-800-404-1746
HughesNet: Gen4 satellite internet is ultra-fast and secure. Plans as low as \$39.99 in select areas. Call 1-800-280-9221 now to get a \$50 Gift Card!
Spectrum Triple Play - TV, Internet & Voice for \$29.99 ea. 60 MB per second speed. No contract or commitment. We buy your existing contract up to \$500! 1-855-402-1186

VACATION RENTALS
ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE to more than 2.1 million S.C. newspaper readers. Your 25-word classified ad will appear in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Call Alanna Ritchie at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

ODOM'S MINI STORAGE
1009 N. Main St., Darlington (843) 393-1327
AUCTION: Tuesday, December 26 at 2 p.m.

TYRELL BESS
Storage #39
MISC
Total Due: \$150.00

TERMS: Cash Day of Sale
No Partial Payments NO CHECKS

HELP WANTED - SALES
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NEW LISTINGS

1197-G Waxwing Dr, Florence—Immaculate 2 bedroom, 2 bath 2nd floor townhouse in Marsh Point S/D. 1,450 sq ft of living area. Large den with vaulted ceiling. Nice kitchen with pantry & separate dining area. Freshly painted and new laminate flooring. New HVAC unit. All new stainless steel appliances remain. Small room could be an office or a 3rd bedroom. HOA fees include water, sewer, and garbage pickup. **Priced at \$112,000**

421 Spring Street—Cute Bungalow featuring 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Thermo windows. Oven and Range and refrigerator remain. Large shower in master bedroom. Carpet in bedrooms and living room. Walk-in closet in one bedroom. Storage area off of laundry room. Lot size is 75 x 170. Located within walking distance to Darlington High School and the ball fields. **Priced at \$62,900. Motivated seller. Bring all offers**

RESIDENTIAL

2200 Lides Springs Rd—3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 half baths, 3,485 sq ft — **\$249,900**
4818 Lullwater Drive—3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,066 sq ft—**\$209,900**
122 Columbian St—3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,608 sq ft **\$174,900**
121 Woodcreek Rd—3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 2,000 sq ft—**\$174,900**
485 Anderson Drive—3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,967 sq ft, inground pool—**\$159,900**
4854 Lullwater Dr—3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,460 sq ft—**\$139,900**

LAND AND LOTS

Twins Lane-Timmonsville—49.96 acres - Farm land and wooded land **\$125,000**
Bobo Newsome Hwy (Hartsville)—22.51 acres of wooded land. **\$66,700**
3053 Marcus Drive (Hartsville)—1.98 acre lot. Lot has a home on it that has burned. **Sold "AS IS" Priced at \$19,900**
Lot K Jeffords Mill— .69 acres cleared—**\$12,000**
621 Delaware River Rd—47 acre lot, fenced with septic tank **\$13,500**
Redwood Drive—Nice lot located off of McIver Road. 92 acres **\$13,500.00**
West McIver Rd— .58 acres, wooded lot—**\$5,000**

COMMERCIAL

2244 Harry Byrd Hwy - Commercial bld. 11,684 sq ft metal building. Sits on 4+ acres of land. 6 ft fence around perimeter of property. Currently used as an office, warehouse, & Restaurant/ lounge. Plenty of office area. 5 restrooms. Lots of potential uses. Conveniently located 4 miles from Darlington Raceway. Close to Hartsville and I-20. Owner will finance with a \$150,000 down payment. Call today to see this property. **Priced at \$750,000 REDUCED - Motivated seller, bring all offers**

911 N. Governor Williams Hwy—30 X 60 commercial metal bld with 12 ft ceilings. Building sits on a 1 acre lot. Nice office area with half bath. Large work space in rear with half bath and 2 roll up doors. The whole building is heated and cooled. Would make a great mechanic shop, car lot or small church. Lots of possibilities with this property. **Priced at \$110,000.00**

1110 Lamar Hwy—2,299 sq ft bld currently used as a barber shop. Separate office and workshop with roll up door in rear of bld. **\$60,000**

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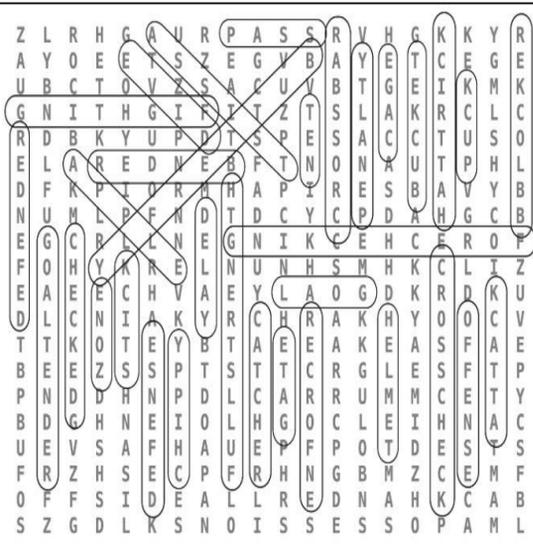
Hartsville Middle School named National Beta Club School of Distinction

National Beta announced recently that Hartsville Middle School is a 2017-2018 National School of Distinction. This award is an honor for Beta chapters striving toward academic achievement, exemplary character, demonstrated leadership and service to others. With an ongoing quest to instill these qualities in more students, the National Beta School of Distinction Award is designed to award those schools that show an increase in membership for the current

school year. Brian Hickman, principal of Hartsville Middle School, praised all who worked so hard throughout the year. "We are honored to be named a National Beta School of Distinction," Hickman said. "Our teacher sponsors have worked diligently to grow the program, and our students put forth a great effort in their quest for academic achievement and serving others." Hartsville Middle School will receive a National Beta School of Distinction banner to

display as a symbol of their accomplishment. In addition, National Beta School of Distinction recipients will be recognized at the 2018 National Beta Convention in Savannah, Georgia, in June. "This prestigious honor is a true indication of Hartsville Middle School's dedication to academic excellence, leadership development and commitment to celebrating their student's achievements," said National Beta's Chief Executive Officer, Bob Bright. National Beta is the largest

independent, nonprofit, educational youth organization in America. Since its beginnings in 1934, National Beta has been committed to providing students with a positive experience in a supportive manner in grades 4-12. The organization recognizes outstanding achievement, promotes character and social responsibility, encourages service involvement to school and community, and fosters leadership skills. For more information about National Beta, please visit betaclub.org





Dancing with the Stars of Darlington County: Meet the Dancers

It's almost time again to hit the dance floor. Dancing With the Stars of Darlington County, an annual charity event benefiting the Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault, will be staged once again at the Center Theater in Hartsville. The event will take place January 25, 2018.

The reveal party September 27 at the Beasley Farm introduced this year's crop of personalities and professionals who will boogie down, cut a rug, and bust a move for a great cause.

To follow along with the training and get updates on the event, visit them on Facebook and on their website at www.darlingtoncountydancingwiththestars.com

Each week until the big night, we will introduce two couples in the News and Press.

This week's couples are:
Celebrity Curtis Boyd,

dancing with professional Celebrity
Jeff Robinson, dancing with professional Ashley LeSage

Celebrity Dancer Curtis Boyd has been the Owner of Fitness Worldwide Gyms for the past 27 years. His gyms include 10 locations. Curtis is a Christian father of three sons and is married to his beautiful wife, Denise Boyd. He is a graduate of Francis Marion University and Florence Darlington Technical College. Curtis is a 5th degree black belt and has trained for 33 years. He is happy to participate in DWTS and help stop domestic violence. Curtis is thankful to have a wonderful and loving family, Logan Suggs as his fantastic dance partner, and many supportive friends. Above all, Curtis says he's thankful to God for sending His son Jesus to save him from his sins.

Professional Dancer

Logan Suggs is a graduate of Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology. She currently attends Francis Marion University seeking a master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology. Logan now works at Fitness Worldwide Gyms and loves that it is a Christian-based gym. She attends church at The Well PPHC in Pamplico, SC. Logan has 13 years of ballet experience and is excited to be a part of Dancing with the Stars to help raise awareness of domestic and sexual assault in our community.

Choreographer Brenda Cranford is the owner and artistic director of Brenda Cranford School of Dance in Hartsville. She opened BCSD in 1981 and takes much pride in the reputation and quality the dance studio has secured in the community over the years. Brenda has trained all her life in all areas of dance and has

been very involved in her community providing entertainment and guest choreography for numerous events and charities. The studio was named in 1987 by Dance Spirit Magazine as one of the top 50 studios in America and competes regionally and nationally for several major dance competitions. Brenda's passion is teaching dance and inspiring others through the art of dance regardless of age or level. Brenda was named Business Person of the Year for 2013 by the Chamber of Commerce and is the proud mother of two girls, Whitney and Jaimie, and wife to her husband of 40 years, Kim. She wishes all the dancers the best of luck and would like to personally thank each of them for their time and effort to make this event possible.

Celebrity Dancer Jeff Robinson was born and raised in Darlington, South Carolina. He graduated from Mayo High School where he

served as Student Body President and Captain of the Darlington High School Football team. Jeff is an Honors Graduate of Francis Marion University and was elected Treasurer of Darlington County in 2016. When asked why he supports the Coalition, Jeff says, "South Carolina has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the United States. The Pee Dee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Assault provides an invaluable service to our communities, and they need our support in order to continue to fight against domestic and sexual violence. DWTS is an opportunity for us to come together as a community, raise money for a great cause, and have a little fun while we're at it."

Professional Dancer Ashley LeSage is from Storrs, Connecticut where she started dancing at the age of three. Her passion for dance brought her to Coker College

in the fall of 2011 where she studied Dance Performance/Choreography and Dance Education. Ashley graduated from Coker College with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance in the spring of 2015 and immediately began working as a dance instructor in public schools, as well as, Hartsville's MOVE Dance Academy. She is currently working towards her MA in Teaching Artistry through Wayne State University. Recently, Ashley accepted the position as Dance Teacher at Thornwell School for the Arts. She chose to participate in this wonderful event because using her talents for the greater good has been, and will always be, her mission through her artistic career. Ashley supports the Pee Dee Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Assault because everyone deserves to feel safe and supported through their journey in life.

Bear population in SC rising; experts warn motorists to use caution

CLEMSON — The second most-prolific mountain bear-hunting season in South Carolina history and more frequent encounters with the animals along the state's roads reflect a rising bear population and increasing habitat encroachment, Clemson University and S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) wildlife experts say.

SCDNR bear biologist Tammy Wactor urges motorists to use caution, especially around dawn and dusk when bears tend to travel.

"Slow down. Watch what you're doing," Wactor said. "You can't control an animal being on the road whether it's a deer or a bear, but you're in bear country, and there's wildlife that's going to be on the highway. You just need to watch out when you're riding at night."

This year, the bear season consisted of two weeks in Game Zone 1, which includes portions of Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties, running from Oct. 17-23 for still hunts (no dogs) and Oct. 24-30 for party dog hunts.

During that timeframe, the total mountain harvest was 108 bears, which ranks second only to the 127 harvested in 2013.

But Wactor said the bear harvest this season was not unexpected and noted it was influenced by a storm that led to bears traveling to find food.

"It's not concerning that we had 108 (bears harvested) because, with population growth, your harvest number should be increasing every year,"

she said. "But it does fluctuate based on acorn load or mass production, and then you have special events that can increase or decrease the likelihood of hunters to come across bears."

Every state in the U.S. now has a state wildlife action plan (SWAP), and while South Carolina's black bear population is growing and it is considered a game species, as of the state's 2015 SWAP the black bear is listed as a moderate priority species of conservation concern.

"It's a species we need on the landscape, so you can bet that SCDNR is going to continue to monitor the population and pay attention to harvests and roadkill numbers," said Shari Rodriguez, Clemson University assistant professor of Human Dimensions of Wildlife.

Wactor said South Carolina's bear population has been increasing over the last 20 years and is expected to continue to do so, meaning harvest numbers will also increase. A bigger concern is the number of roadkills outside the hunting season and the effect those might have on the bear population. There were around 20 bears killed along Upstate roads in 2016 and the total has already climbed above 30 this year.

"People are expanding into places where bears have been for decades, the bear population is growing and the bears have less habitat," she said. "This year, the reason you get these abnormal years is mass production. When there are no acorns to eat — and we've had very little soft mass, which would be the blackberries

during the summer — bears have to move around to find food. And when they're moving a lot more than they normally do, they're going to get hit more."

Greg Yarrow, chair and professor of Clemson's forestry and environmental conservation department, said while the state's black bear population is "healthy," it has begun to expand outside the traditional focal areas of the mountains and the coastal plains.

"Part of the challenge is going to be being able to sustain the bear populations in a rapidly developing area where you have more highways systems and more interactions with people," Yarrow said. "Bear are a big-game species in South Carolina and the harvest of 108 bear is endemic of a harvest increase of a population that is growing. DNR does a great job of monitoring population trends and making sure to balance harvest versus sustaining the population."

"They are one of those apex species that we are fortunate to have in this state, but there's going to be continued challenges to maintain the population as areas are so rapidly growing," he said. "Many of the conflicts that happen with bear are the animals being hit by cars in the coastal areas and as more of that area develops there's going to be more and more challenges as far as conservation of bears."

While Wactor said bear attacks have been nonexistent in South Carolina, she warned against engaging in activity that could alter a bear's behavior.

Francis Marion's Phi Alpha Theta chapter named country's best



The FMU chapter of Phi Alpha Theta – Alpha Theta Zeta – has become the honor society's most lauded chapter in recent years. Photo Contributed

One of Francis Marion University's most decorated honor societies, the Phi Alpha Theta History honors society, has won yet another national award.

The FMU chapter of Phi Alpha Theta – Alpha Theta Zeta – has become the honor society's most lauded chapter in recent years and it recently added two more awards: the Nels Claven Founders Award for best overall chapter in the nation and the National Best Chapter Award for its enrollment division.

It's the second year in a row FMU's Phi Alpha Theta chapter has won the Founders Award and the eighth year in the row it's

won the Best Chapter award for its enrollment in a division of 622 other colleges and universities.

Chapter President Russ Sawyer says the chapter's success is emblematic of the passion the students have for the subject of History.

"It's been a great learning experience," Sawyer says. "All of the members are so into History and that really shows with the chapter."

Founded in 1996, FMU's Phi Alpha Theta chapter has hit its stride over the past decade with a greater focus on finding more ways to be involved, both on campus and at Phi Alpha Theta, and other history-related events across

the country.

The chapter is involved in a variety of events on campus. It supplies volunteers for academic events on campus, participates in the Heritage Festival in Lake City, attends history-related events like the Renaissance festival in Huntersville, N.C., and recently joined in the international food expo on campus. Twice, the FMU chapter has hosted Phi Alpha Theta's regional conference on campus.

Chapter members have also presented numerous papers at Phi Alpha Theta events, and consistently produced winning entries.