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Subscription Available

Building program full ahead, reading programs making a difference in School District One

By David Meade

During their meeting Tuesday, Anderson School District One Board of Trustees heard from Palmetto High drama teacher Will Ragland, received an update on the building program and heard from reading coaches in the district about how they are encouraging reading in the elementary schools.

Palmetto High Teacher Will Ragland presented information to the Board on the Palmetto Stage Company program and on his local theater company, the Mill Town Players.

Ragland directs the Mustang Stage Company and the group has presented Shakespeare, receiving four All Star Awards and one act production of Scapino!, which also won awards.

Scapino! was presented at the Palmetto Dramatic Association high school one act festival and individual events in the SC Thespians festival, both held at Dorman High School in Feb.

They received a Superior rating, earning only .7 points shy of a perfect score from the 3 judges, Ragland said.

The team was also recognized with Best Set and Costumes and Best Commedia. Junior Cameron Woodson was awarded for Excellence in Set and Costume Design, senior Jordan Owens for Excellence in Physical Comedy, and sophomore Gracie Poore for Excellence in Acting.

Palmetto was the only school from Anderson County to attend the event, and one of almost 30 schools from across the state.

Ragland also presented information on the Mill Town Players.

The local theater company is enjoying rave reviews and increasing crowd attendance with more than 23,000 people attending shows during their second season last year.

The Mill Town Players shows are presented in the Historic Pelzer Auditorium which is leased from the

school district.

Ragland requested the Board allow him to convert the old cafeteria space at the school property into a rehearsal and multi-purpose area which could also be

a smaller performing space.

Ragland said it would be a small black box youth theater for ages K-12 and would be modeled after the SC Children's Theater in Greenville.

Superintendent David Havird said Ragland "is a really creative teacher in our school and across the district."

District One Finance Director Travis Thomas reported the District received

two months of local option sales tax receipts in Feb.

For October and November, Anderson County took in \$3,585,000. District One's portion, at thirty percent, amounted to \$1,108,000.

Twenty percent of that, or \$221,000 went to property tax relief and \$886,000 went into the capital building fund.

The building fund balance is currently at \$5,058,000.

The capital improvements building fund is being used for a number of projects across the District. Havird updated the Board on several projects currently underway.

According to Havird, the eight room addition at Concrete should be finished by May. Workers are painting and installing ceiling grids.

Grading is being done and lights are being installed for the Powdersville Tennis Courts. Asphalt should be laid in the next week or so, Havird said.

At the Wren High Stadium, work continues on the locker rooms and weight room and all block work should be completed in the next few days. Lights, grading and retention pond are being finished for the Wren Tennis Courts.

Plans for the concession stand and restrooms are still being looked at and there will need to be additional grading, requiring permitting from DHEC and surveying, Havird said.

The Palmetto High Multi-purpose facility will be bid this summer, with construction beginning in August, according to Havird.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Jane Harrison, along with eight reading coaches from across the district, presented information on reading programs at their elementary schools.

Harrison said that the coaches are supporting teachers and impacting students through a variety of programs including summer reading courses,

(Continued on Page 3)



Stadium improvement project

Several construction workers work on the foundation of the new weight room at Wren High School football stadium. New tennis courts will also be built between the weight room and the high school. (Photo by Michael Lollis)

Envision Williamston

Main Street Challenge offers \$10,000 incentive

Envision Williamston is now accepting applications for a Main Street Challenge Program.

This program is an entrepreneurial start-up competition for the purpose of generating additional retail occupancy in Williamston and is offering an incentive package in excess of \$10,000 to each of the winning entrepreneurs who are selected to open their new business in Williamston.

The Small Business Development Center based at Clemson University is providing hands on assistance to all semi-finalists.

"Come and let your entrepreneurial spirit grow!" Envision Williamston Executive Director Sonya Crandall said.

For more information go to the Envision Williamston website at www.envision-williamston.com and click on the Main Street Challenge.

Envision Williamston is also now taking applications for Facade Improvement Grants. The Facade Improvement Grant Program provides a one-time reimbursement grant up to \$2,000 to commercial property owners with the business owner providing a match of 50%.

Improvements eligible for a grant include exterior cosmetic and/or structural building improvements, painting, signage, windows, and awnings which are visible from the street.

Applications for the Facade Improvement Grant Program will be accepted through April 28. Information on the Facade Improvement Grant is also available on the Envision Williamston website.

For information on either program, contact Sonya Crandall, Executive Director, Envision Williamston at sonyacew@gmail.com; or call

Williamston Council looking at several upcoming projects

By Stan Welch

A number of issues and matters were brought up at Tuesday night's council workshop, in advance of next week's official Council meeting.

In an informal conversation among Mayor Durham and three of the four Council members (Councilman Tony Haggood was not present), Durham brought up the question of improving the training and skill sets of various town employees in order to keep more projects in house, instead of having to contract them out.

He mentioned that he had had conversations with officials at the Tri County Technical College about perhaps developing a specific course, or a municipal apprenticeship, designed to provide training in various skills that would be useful in public works, such as heavy equipment operation and reinforcing trenches and ditches for safety while construction and repairs are underway.

The discussion was for information only and took place before the workshop actually began.

Once the session began, Durham worked through the coming meeting's agenda, beginning with four ordinances due for final approval.

Town Attorney Lee Cole has made some minor adjustments to some of them, though they remain largely intact as first presented.

One question raised was whether the Council had any problem with opening bids for services or products exceeding ten thousand dollars in value in public.

The ordinance requires formal bids for items of that amount. Such bids are public information by law, but the issue of whether bids containing proprietary information should be disclosed was raised.

Attorney Cole opined that such information would be protected, a view that

The Journal agreed with. The Journal, in fact, stated that including the bid amounts in the minutes of the meeting would satisfy the public disclosure requirement.

Mayor Durham announced the next phase of the Mineral Spring Park trail project is ready to be let for bids. He added that a pre-construction conference for the Minor St. sidewalk project is scheduled for Thursday.

During subsequent conversation about that project, the mayor expressed his surprise at learning the actual scope of the school board's plan to make improvements at the Palmetto Middle School.

"I thought they were talking about remodeling and upgrading, but it appears they are going to completely replace the buildings by building one and then tearing one down, until the campus is realigned to face Minor Street", the

(Continued on Page 3)

Anderson District One School Board hears preliminary budget information

By David Meade

During their meeting Tuesday, Anderson School District One Board of Trustees heard preliminary budget information and approved a large number of teachers and administrators for the 2017-18 school year.

Superintendent David Havird presented information on expected funding from the state and national level and the effect for District One.

Havird said the SC State House budget will increase funding for the Education Finance Act (EFA) by \$38 million which will raise the base student cost by \$50, from \$2,350 to \$2,400. He said the Senate may increase it to \$100.

The state budget will also fund \$36 million for school districts to cover the cost of one percent of the required two percent increase in employer contribution for the state retirement system.

The state is also expected to provide \$25.4 million to cover health insurance premium increases, he said.

A \$100 million allocation to the Education Improvement Act funds will help districts with high poverty index but will not help in District One, he said.

Funding from the SC lottery is being

allocated to purchase or lease school buses.

There is a \$375,000 increase for teacher supply reimbursement and teachers will again receive \$275 to purchase supplies for their classrooms.

Also \$3 million is being made available for student industry certifications and credential exams and \$19.4 million for EIA funds to address SC Public Charter School District growth.

State funding for some programs was cut.

Havird said \$23.8 million in SC lottery funding has been cut for K-12 Technology Initiative.

Also cut was \$23 million to the Aid to School District budget line which was set aside for use in the settlement over the Individuals with Disabilities Act requirements.

On the National level, Title I funding is being increased by \$1 billion along with a \$250 million for a new program dedicated to encouraging districts to adopt a system of student-based budgeting and open enrollment.

Special Education grants to states through IDEA is being funded at approximately \$13 billion. The average

federal share of funding per student will be about \$1,777.

Federal funding is being cut by \$2.4 billion for investments for Title II of the Every Student Succeeds Act for professional development, in-service training, technology integration into curricula, training to improve student achievement, development of STEM master teacher corps and more.

Also \$1 billion in funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers that help districts provide professional development, tutorial services, youth development and other after school programs.

District One Finance Director Travis Thomas said the state employee retirement contribution will add \$342,000 to the District One budget, to go toward the required two percent increase for retirement.

The EFA increase of \$50 for base student cost will bring in an additional \$502,000.

Professional development and technology will see a decrease of \$18,000.

Career and Technology Education equipment funding of \$47,285 is being

rolled into a new fund which will bring \$245,301 to District One for the Career and Technology Center.

Overall the District is expected to see an increase from the state from \$41,934,197 (2016-17) to \$42,516,523 for a difference of \$582,325.

Havird said school districts need to see an increase in the base student cost. "We really need the base student cost to go up a bit," he said.

He also said that in District One, property assessments are going up which will help and that growth of 200 students which were not included in the budget last year will help this year's budget. "Growth and assessment will help us this year."

District One will see a loss of \$311,358 for technology because of the decrease in lottery funding, according to Thomas.

In other business the board approved second reading on 13 new or revised policies.

They then went into executive session to discuss real estate related contract.

The Board approved a large number of teachers and administrator recommendations. (See separate story)

Inserts



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Opinion

Seems to Me . . .

Final Four

By Stan Welch

As most of you know, I am a pretty rabid Clemson fan. If I'm not rooting for my Citadel Bulldogs, I'm pulling for the Tigers. In fact, I got so excited watching the Tigers embarrass Ohio State (31-0) on New Year's Eve in the semifinals game before the national championship, that I twisted my knee jumping up to yell at the television. You know you're getting old when you get hurt watching a football game. I was almost as excited as I was when the Tigers ended their regular season with a 56-7 thumping of the Gamecocks.

But that was then, and this is now. And now is a strange and wondrous time in college athletics. This is a time when South Carolina (the state, not the university) has a chance, and I think a good chance, to capture all three national championships in collegiate sports. What a remarkable accomplishment that would be.

Coastal Carolina University, in perhaps the most improbable upset in the history of the College World Series, won the championship to begin South Carolina's remarkable run of titles. Clemson, after a heartbreaking loss to Alabama in the 2015 national championship game, turned a second consecutive 14-1 season into a national title this time, winning one of the classic college games in recent memory. That made two national championships for the Palmetto State.

And now, in a remarkable turn of events, the Gamecocks are two wins away from the school's first national basketball title in history. They are about to play in the school's first Final Four ever; a fact that stunned me, since I am old enough to remember Frank McGuire's great teams, led by John Roche, John Riker, Tom Owens and John Ribock.

This turn of events has put a lot of Tiger fans into a quandary. Some of them are simply incapable of cheering for the Gamecocks, in anything, for any reason. Adding to their anguish and indecision is the fact that, according to the brackets, South Carolina could theoretically face North Carolina for the national title. If there is any school that Clemson fans hate more than South Carolina, it is the Tarheels. This sort of pressure to pick a side could cause thousands of Clemson heads to explode.

As for me, there is no turmoil, no existential struggle. While I am a Clemson fan, I am a proud Carolina boy, and I will have no trouble cheering for the Gamecocks. For as long as they last in the final Four, and I hope it is until they cut down the nets for the last time, they will be my Gamecocks.

Imagine little old South Carolina owning all three NCAA championships!?! But wait! There's more! The USC women's basketball team is also in the Final Four, and while the UConn team is all but invincible, there's always a fighting chance that the Palmetto State could hold four national championships at once.

If that happens, I will have to start a gofundme page to pay my cell phone bill, because I will be calling people from N.C., Georgia, Alabama, Florida and elsewhere at random, and just talking trash to them.

Spring practice for football is underway, and soon my attention will focus once again on the Tigers. But for the next couple of weeks, Go Cocks is my motto.

HISTORICAL MUSINGS

by Elaine Hunt

Daily newspapers printed items from every community in the Anderson Intelligencer, and picked up stories from other communities as well. Folks were able to know the local happenings concerning loved ones and family members. While some learned of marriages and recent births, many times the paper told of the sad passing of a loved one.

Keowee Courier., March 17, 1892, Lena Owen wife of SE Owen died at Pelzer on March 9th after a brief illness. She was a daughter of JA and Martha Bell and a native of Oconee. She leaves a sweet babe of two weeks along with her husband and family.

The Anderson Intelligencer., June 23, 1892, The citizens of this place were shocked to learn that a white prisoner in jail had hanged himself the night before. The man's name was J H Pryor and he was from Pelzer though he had lived a number of years in Honea Path. He was 42 years old and his family unable to bury him; he was placed in the county Poor House grave yard.

July 07, 1892 Miss Mary M. Fowler, daughter of P. M. and E. P. Fowler, died June 26th at the home of her parents at Pelzer. She was about 18 years old and was a member of Reedy River Presbyterian church. She was loved by all who knew her. She was buried on the 27th of June in the graveyard of Bethel church. The Anderson

Intelligencer

The Anderson Intelligencer., July 27, 1892, Married at Pelzer Sunday July 24th 1882 by Rev B R Mayfield Mr. T. T. Bryant and Miss Lizzie Hughey.

The Anderson Intelligencer., October 12, 1892, Miss Mattie P. Caper married Mr. Clarence E. Humphreys of Pelzer.

The Anderson Intelligencer., January 11, 1893, Married by Rev D. Weston Hiott, Mr. M. L. Westmoreland and Miss Sallie V. Thompson.

The Anderson Intelligencer., March 08, 1893, Rev D. W. Hiott married Homer Long and Miss Gertrude Newman.

The Anderson Intelligencer., April 12, 1893, Married by Trail Justice L. B. Roberts Sunday March 19th JC Wooten and Dora D. Cooper; Charles R. Turner and Claudie Ginn; On March 26th Elliott M. Cooper and Emma M. Hudgens.

The Anderson Intelligencer., July 12, 1893, Married on the 4th by Rev D. W. Hiott, Mr. James T. Hudgens and Miss Laura Hunnicutt.

The Anderson Intelligencer., July 19, 1893, Died Mrs. Thomas J. Martin wife of one of the most prominent merchants of Pelzer. She was Blanche Hair of Barnwell County. She leaves two small boys.

The Anderson Intelligencer., August 30, 1893, Married at Prairie Farm SC on 23 August by John F. Clardy Notary Public, Louis Spearman and Cordie Cobb

Senator Tim Scott

Confirm Judge Gorsuch

By Senator Tim Scott
Last month, I had the pleasure of meeting Judge Gorsuch in my office. He was genuine, knowledgeable, and made it clear that he would exercise judi-



ciary independence when interpreting the law. After our conversation, I walked away convinced that he has the right temperament to fill the ninth seat of the highest court in our nation.

During his opening statement at his confirmation hearing on Monday, Judge Neil Gorsuch said, "my decisions have never reflected a judgment about the people before me, only about the law, facts, issue in each particular case. A good judge can promise no more than that, and a good judge should guarantee no less." This resonated with me. The statement alone exposes his commitment to be a fair defender of the rule of law. He understands the importance of our government's separation of powers and I know will enforce those same standards when confirmed.

A graduate of Columbia University, Harvard Law School, and Oxford University, Judge Gorsuch has a decade of experience at the Tenth Circuit. He is known for being a "textualist" and has received the highest ranking from the American Bar Association—"unanimously well-qualified." His record on the bench is even more impressive. He has participated in about 2,700 cases, and has only been overruled once. It is hard to argue against factual evidence that shows Judge Gorsuch will work on behalf of the American people.

However, despite his phenomenal record and being unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 2006 to the Tenth U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals, Senate Democrats are doing everything within their power to attempt to block his nomination. In fact, President Trump picked Judge Gorsuch because he is considered to be mainstream and will bring a fair and impartial perspective to the court.

After the passing of the great Justice Antonin Scalia, we naturally asked ourselves the question: who is qualified enough to follow and continue his legacy of upholding the Constitution as it was written and defending our country's principles?

Judge Gorsuch, who says Justice Scalia was a "lion of the law" and a mentor to him, is the right man to fill such an important seat. Gorsuch once said to "mark [him] down too as a believer that the traditional account of the judicial role Justice Scalia defended will endure." And I believe he will do just that — interpret the law as it was written.

Since nominated, we have seen liberals, independents, conservatives, and folks from different backgrounds come out in strong support of Judge Gorsuch, because he has proven that he is a judge committed to all people. He is someone who can help bring back faith in the court and law.

Neil Gorsuch deserves the 60 votes needed to be confirmed, and at a time when our country is experiencing some uneasiness, concerns here in Washington, we should all agree that Judge Gorsuch is a brilliant judge, who will do exceptionally well as Justice Scalia's successor. Judge Gorsuch is a balanced jurist who understands the importance of an independent judiciary, and I respect him greatly.

I trust that he will interpret the Constitution as it was intended by our founding fathers. I have the deep belief that Judge Gorsuch will make the best decisions for our country. I am excited about his nomination and look forward to voting to confirm him as our next Supreme Court justice.

Senator Mike Gambrell Legislative Update

March 24

This was another busy week in the General Assembly, as we have only about one-third of the Legislative Session remaining. Tuesday, March 21st was National Guard Day in South Carolina, and it was an honor to recognize the many sacrifices and valuable contributions the S. C. National Guard makes to protect the freedom, democracy and security of our State and Nation. The Senate gave third reading to a bill which would require continuing law enforcement education credits in mental health or addictive disorders for all Class 1-LE Law Enforcement Officers. Further, the bill would establish crisis intervention team training and provide that every county shall establish at least one crisis intervention team.

The Senate and House have both passed legislation that would bring South Carolina into compliance with the Federal Real ID Act of 2005. This legislation directs the Governor to take all actions necessary to implement the requirements of this Act, and would also eliminate the fee to add the designation of "Veteran" to a S. C. driver's license.

We were visited in Columbia by some of our local School Administrators. Darrell Johnson, Superintendent of Greenwood School District 50, and Janice Walpole, the Director of the Anderson 1 and 2 Adult Education program in Pelzer, were here on behalf of their school districts. A group of students from Midway Elementary School was also here for a tour on Wednesday, and it was great to see all of these outstanding representatives of our public school system.

The S. C. Hospital Association made a trip to the State House, and I was happy to have a chance to meet with Bill Keith, Craig White and Ken Coffey from Self Regional Hospital in Greenwood, as well as Wayne Harris, Michael Cunningham, Bill Mancin, and John Miller from AnMed Health Care in Anderson. On Friday, I will be participating in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Pathway House, a new women's shelter in Greenwood.

There was some very good news released for Greenwood County this week when the Governor's Office announced the expansion of Ackerson-Stevens, Inc., a lumber company and manufacturer of custom moldings and flooring accessories. They are renovating their Ware Shoals manufacturing plant and adding equipment which will result in creating 15 new positions. Hiring is already underway, and the expansion should be complete in early 2018.

Please feel free to contact me on any issue. I can be reached at my district address, 400 Filter Plant Road, Honea Path, S.C. 29654, 864-844-3614, or at my legislative office in Columbia, Post Office Box 142, Columbia, S. C. 29202, 803-212-6040, or through my email address: MikeGambrell@sensenate.gov.

Anderson Area Touchdown Club Annual Awards Banquet set for April 19

The Anderson Area Touchdown Club in cooperation with the City and County of Anderson will have a special evening on April 19.

Clemson University Coach Brent Venables will be guest speaker. They will be honoring special guests from the 1981 and the 2016 Clemson University National Champions and former Anderson Area Touchdown Club Defensive Player of the year and Clemson Linebacker Ben Boulware.

Receiving the annual awards from the Touchdown Club are: Offensive Player, Jackson Williamson, Westside High School; Defensive Player, Brad Johnson, Pendleton High School; Offensive Lineman, Avery Reece, Belton-Honea Path High School; Co-Defensive Linemen, Eddie Smith,

Belton-Honea Path High School and Zacch Pickens, T.L. Hanna High School.

Also: Coach of the Year, Robert Mustar, Powdersville High School; Co-Scholastic Awards, Lummie Young, Westside High School and Payton Young, Palmetto High School; "Extra YARD Awards", Hunter Vaughter, Crescent High School and Quashon Greenlee, T.L. Hanna High School.

The Public is invited. The Awards Banquet will be held at the Anderson County Civic Center. A meal will be served with the meal line opening at 6:30pm and the program will start at 7:00pm.

Tickets are \$20.00 for Adults and \$10.00 for Students. Call 864/226-7380 for tickets.

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Letter policy defined

The Journal welcomes input from its readers in the form of letters to the editor concerning issues of local interest or candidates for county, regional, and national elective office.

The policy requires that letters submitted for publication be original with the writer, not more than 650 words in length, and be signed. An address and phone number should be included for verification purposes.

Letters will be accepted from writers living in Anderson, Greenville, Pickens, Abbeville, Oconee and Laurens counties. No more than one letter per month will be published from any one writer.

The Journal reserves the right to halt debate on a particular issue if, in our estimation, the subject has been thoroughly discussed. The Journal will not print letters concerning individual candidates or issues to be voted on the week before an election.

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By Charles Langston

The Montana State Department of Fish and Wildlife is advising hikers, hunters, fishermen and golfers to take extra precautions and be on the alert for bears while in the Gallatin, Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forrest. They advise people to wear noise producing devices such as little bells on their clothing to alert, but not startle the bears unexpectedly. They also

advise carrying pepper spray in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch for signs of bear activity. People should be able to recognize the difference between black bear and grizzly bear droppings. Black bear droppings are smaller and contain berries and possibly squirrel fur. Grizzly bear droppings have little bells in them and smell like pepper spray.

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Congressman Jeff Duncan Third District

CONGRESSMAN DUNCAN ANNOUNCES ANDERSON AND LAURENS OFFICE HOURS

Washington, D.C.— In preparation for the upcoming April district work period, Congressman Duncan announced plans to hold individual meetings with constituents on Monday, April 10th in Laurens and on Thursday, April 13th in Anderson, in addition to his regularly scheduled public outreach.

"One of my most important responsibilities as a Member of Congress is to listen. I have made listening to people's concerns a priority during my entire 6 years in Congress and look forward to continuing that tradition over the April district work period," Duncan said. "These listening sessions, along with visits to churches and small businesses, and attending community events gives me valuable insight that helps better represent the people of South Carolina."

Constituents interested in meeting with Congressman Duncan on the 10th or the 13th can call his Anderson, South Carolina office at 864-224-7401 by Friday March 31st.



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We are continuing to fight against a bill that would exempt nonprofits getting public funds from the FOIA.

By Jay Bender
Where does your tax money go? In most instances it supports direct government activities such as schools, police, housing, public health and the like.

But in many instances your tax money is transferred to nonprofit corporations that have convinced government leaders that they perform a service worthy of public support. Museums, festivals, parks, and tourism promoters are common nonprofit recipients of public funds.

There is a bill, H.3931, pending in the House of Representatives, that would exempt nonprofit organizations getting public funds from the Freedom of Information Act.

The bill is being promoted as a way to make nonprofits accountable to the governments that provide funding by requiring filing of general statements about how your money is being spent. If you believe that nonsense, I have some beachfront property in Walhalla for sale.

In too many instances, those doling out your money are benefiting from the use of those funds to hire their relatives or worse. If this bill passes, we will never know.

Some legislators have been told nonprofits are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act, and this bill will add "transparency." Nonprofits receiving or spending your money are already subject to the open government law, and you are entitled to see their records. All you have to do is ask.

In 1974 the General Assembly enacted the Freedom of Information Act, based on a finding that it was vital in a democratic society that public business be conducted in an open and public manner. The Supreme Court of South Carolina has repeatedly ruled

that this law exists to prevent secret government activity.

One mechanism used to hide government activity has been through the use of nonprofit corporations. The University of South Carolina for years hid a presidential slush fund behind a nonprofit foundation. When the public and press demanded an accounting of the foundation's activities through Freedom of Information Act requests, the foundation refused to provide access saying the law did not apply to it because it was a nonprofit corporation.

The S.C. Supreme Court said otherwise. The court looked to the definition in the law of those organizations to which the law applied. These organizations are identified in the law as "public bodies." If an entity is a public body it is required to disclose certain records and conduct its meetings in a prescribed manner.

A "public body" includes "any organization, corporation, or agency supported in whole or in part by public funds or expending public funds." The USC Foundation met this definition, and, as a consequence, was required to account for how it spent its money. When exposed to public scrutiny many of the expenditures, such as gifts to elected officials and lavish speaking fees, were questioned and protested.

Is there value in knowing how a nonprofit organization that gets tax money spends that money? Most of us think so. If you know where the money is going, you have grounds to tell your representatives in government that you approve or disapprove of the way your money is being spent. We should be past the point where we will accept an assurance such as, "Trust me. Great things are being done with your money."

There is too much evidence to the contrary that trust is not enough. In Richland County alone we've had a recreation commission paying inflated salaries to relatives who probably shouldn't have been on the payroll in the first place.

We've had the records of a high school booster club requested by the Attorney General who is investigating charges that much of the money is not accounted for. Two festival organizers are being questioned about what they have done with the public money they have received to conduct festivals that seem not to have happened.

I suspect certain nonprofit organizations across the state would be exposed to scorn or prosecution if their activities were subjected to public scrutiny. There are allegations in several parts of the state that tax money is being laundered by nonprofit corporations to fund political contributions.

The only thing transparent about H.3931 is the desire of organizations supported by or spending your money to do it in secret. This bill should be defeated.

If not, your tax dollars will go down a rabbit hole never to be heard from again. Tell your House member you want true accountability and defeat the bill.

Bender is a retired media law professor and an attorney for the S.C. Press Association, and advocate for open government.

Council . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
Mayor said, "Only the gym will be left intact."

The discussion then moved to actions the town can take to encourage residential development.

Durham touted the ordinance that will establish a mechanism to incentivize economic development. "We will have to fund that program in the future, but at least this ordinance will establish a means to achieve that goal," said Durham.

He also reported that the town has submitted an application for a CDBG grant for an additional sewer line, that would run up Academy Street, and cross the railroad tracks to Belton Drive. "I would like to see that line constructed because there is room for a number of houses in that area. Williamston has a much better chance to attract residential development than it does to attract some large industry. If business sees rooftops appearing everywhere, they will move in to serve those residents, and the town will grow accordingly."

Councilman Rockey Burgess raised the question of upgrading and consolidating the electrical infrastructure in the Mineral Spring Park, beginning a conversation that quickly went sideways, as Mayor Durham tied it to the issue of the historic depot's proposed renovation.

Durham stated bluntly that he saw no reason to continue pursuing the restoration project, stating that the one hundred thirty thousand dollars estimated for the project would be much better spent on improvements to the park, including the electrical system, irrigation, and sod placement.

He argued that the depot, while clearly of historic value, is too primitive in construction to be easily brought into compliance with building codes, or with the American Disabilities Act. "I just think we can get a lot more bang for the bucks if we spend that money in the park. That's where the town's heart is, not the depot. That's not to say that down the road we can't revisit the matter, but right now it just seems the lesser of several choices."

Burgess agreed, saying that the hodge podge electrical service in the park is unsafe as it is currently configured. But he also pushed for the mayor's approval of a volunteer effort to improve the depot. Burgess said that he felt some contractors in town might be willing to donate time and services to the project. He asked to be given access to the engineering plans that currently exist, and the mayor encouraged him to do whatever he could on a volunteer basis.

Returning to the agenda, Durham mentioned the possibility of purchasing an additional packer truck as well as residential trash cans designed to be handled mechanically. He estimated a cost of two hundred thousand dollars for the truck and the cans but mentioned that the town has built a reserve fund of approximately two million dollars in recent years. "It is not our role to enrich the government, so I think spending this amount to improve the garbage service to our citizens would be a proper use of the money."

He also announced that on Saturday morning, opening day for the town's baseball leagues, approximately three hundred players will assemble at the park at 8:30 a.m. and parade to the ball parks.

School Board approves personnel recommendations for 2017-18

The Anderson School District One Board approved a large number of teachers and administrator recommendations for the 2017-18 school year during the meeting Tuesday.

Several district employees will be in new administrative principal positions. Palmetto High Assistant Principal/Freshman Academy Director Jason McCauley has been named Principal at Palmetto Middle School.

Wren Assistant Principal/Director of Freshman Academy Seth Young has been named Principal at Wren Middle.

No replacement has been named for either the Palmetto or Wren Assistant Principal/Freshman Director position.

The Palmetto High Assistant Principal position also remains vacant.

The news that two longtime District One Administrators, Palmetto High Assistant Principal Mike Kelly and Palmetto Middle Principal Barry Knight, would not be coming back created an uproar on social media recently. Both administrators were retired and working under the SC Teacher & Employee Retention Incentive (TERI) Program

The TERI Program allows employees who retire from the SC Retirement System, but want to continue employment with the agency and retain the same positions. Participation in the TERI Program is generally for a period not to exceed five years, but it is not guaranteed employment for the specified program period.

According to the TERI program website, effective July 1, 2012 the program is not available to new hires. Also new enrollees after June 30, 2012 must end their participation within five (5) years or by June 30, 2018, whichever is earlier.

Participation in the TERI Program is a voluntary agreement between the employee and the employer.

Personnel recommendations approved by the Board include:

Deidre Ables, Media Specialist, West Pelzer Elementary; Hollyn Candler, TBD; Hope Deese, Family and Consumer Science, Powdersville High; Emailie Degen, TBD; Amber Govero, ELA, Wren Middle; Laura Grier, Grade Five, Powdersville Elementary; Jordonna Harpster, Grade 6 ELA, Wren Middle; Jennifer Holcombe, Resource, Palmetto High; Terri

Building . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
model lessons, lab classrooms and use other resources.

At Palmetto Elementary, programs included book stores, mobile book carts, a book classroom and Mustang Buck incentives which can be earned and used to purchase books.

There is also a Real Men Read volunteer program in which male volunteers come in to read to students and share the importance of reading and writing.

At Spearman, a Literary Day and Night encourages parent participation.

Cedar Grove Elementary uses book carts and has older students read to younger students as part of their program. They also use iPADS, programs and books.

At West Pelzer Elementary, local theater groups including the SC Children's theater and Greenville Theater have helped encourage reading. Students also helped produce a cover for a book.

A program at Concrete includes creative and fun events such as dot day, dress up days and football Fridays in which local high school athletes come in and read to students.

At Powdersville Elementary, they have March Book Madness creating a reading competition with book brackets, eventually leading to a champion book winner. The winning homeroom will have a Popsicle party.

Harrison also reported online testing in District One will begin Apr. 24.

Additional computers have been installed to get ready and Harrison said State Education Department officials want to come visit during the testing. There has also been field testing and quantile testing, she said. "Our students have been tested quite a bit"

Harrison also received approval from the board to proceed with renaming some courses and proceed with several proposed local board approved courses.

Two of those are the Yearbook course being renamed Digital Publications and a new film course being added at Powdersville High School which focuses on using multi-media.

Havird said the reading coach program has been positive for students and teachers in the district.

"They have worked so well together," he said. "It is one of the most positive things we've done."

Ivester, Cedar Grove Elementary; Darren Landreth, Sixth Grade Science, Palmetto Middle.

Also Erin Mays, Social Studies, Palmetto High; Mary Elizabeth Mills, Grade 7 Math, Wren Middle; Brittany Patterson, Grade 7 ELA, Wren Middle; Brenda Perry, Cedar Grove Elementary; Samantha Proctor, Concrete Primary; Gretchen Skelton, Cedar Grove Elementary; Braden Sullivan, Grade Eight Social Studies, Palmetto Middle; Stephanie Walker, Chorus, Palmetto Middle; Haley White, Third Grade, West Pelzer Elementary.

Transfers - Wesley Carwile, Grade Five at Palmetto Elementary to Grade Six Math at Palmetto Middle; Briggette Schultz, Grade Four at Palmetto Elementary to Academic Assistance at West Pelzer Elementary; Jackie Vaughn, Teacher Assistant at Palmetto Middle to 1.0 Teacher at Palmetto Middle; Andi Williams, Grade Six Math at Wren Middle to Grade Four at Palmetto Elementary.

Resignations - April Ficklin, Wren High; Rachel Horton, English, Palmetto High; Ashley Jackson, Hunt Meadows Elementary; Alston Pettigrew, Band, Palmetto High; Christina Ridgeway, Grade One, West Pelzer Elementary; Michael Whaley, Science, Palmetto High.

Retirements - Debbie Clardy, Grade Five, Wren Elementary; Gail Patton, Self Contained Teacher, Palmetto Elementary.

Administrative Recommendations - Sherry Padgett, Concrete Primary, Principal; Brandon Koon, Concrete Primary, Assistant Principal; Amy Cothran, Palmetto Elementary, Principal; John Economou, Palmetto Elementary, Assistant Principal; Kristie Finley, Cedar Grove Elementary, Principal; Matthew White, Cedar Grove Elementary, Assistant Principal; Brad Moore, Powdersville Elementary, Principal.

New list announced

Neighborhood Improvement Program to demolish houses

By Stan Welch

The countywide demolition program to remove substandard housing continues, with the release of the list of the next twenty four houses to be torn down.

The Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) began last year, with the acquisition and demolition of nineteen houses, including several in the Williamston and Pelzer area. Once again, a number of houses on the new list are in the Williamston and Belton areas.

Properties at 1514 Minor St., 1735 and 1739 Belton St., 108 Market St., 11 West First St., and 2 West Second St. are all slated for demolition.

Following the conclusion of the second phase, twenty other properties will be acquired and razed. Under the NIP program, properties are purchased from their owners, who often prefer to sell the properties, rather than repair or remodel them. Often, getting some return for the properties, as well as escaping the tax burden, is sufficient compensation.

Once the next twenty properties are demolished, the program will convert to a status where the county maintains the properties for the next three years. At the end of that time, the county will conduct a series of public meetings to receive input about the possible uses that the properties might be put to, such as parks or green spaces.

In some cases, the municipalities associated with the properties may be able to obtain them, while some may be retained by the county for future use. The Pelzer Heritage Trust Commission has been a key player in the program, serving as a pass through entity, due to their 501 (c)(3) status.

Palmetto Business Association Easter Egg Hunt April 8

The Palmetto Business Association (PBA) will sponsor their annual Easter Egg Hunt for ages 10 and under Saturday, April 8 in Williamston's Mineral Spring Park. Rain date for the event will be the following Saturday, Apr. 15. Ages and time schedules are as follows: under three 9:30 a.m., ages four and five 10 a.m., ages six and seven 10:30 a.m., and ages eight to ten 11 a.m.

Drawings for prizes and grand prizes will be held for each age group prior to their scramble for candy, which this year will be enclosed in colorful plastic eggs. There will be drawings for cookie baskets prepared by students at the Career and Technology Center. At the conclusion of the last hunt, a drawing will be held for a grand prize.

Bobby Winburn of Restoration Chapel is heading the project for the PBA. Winburn

Also Melissa Tollison, Powdersville Elementary, Assistant Principal; Dr. Stacy Hashe, West Pelzer Elementary, Principal; Cathy Heath, West Pelzer Elementary, Assistant Principal; Tommy Bolger, Wren Elementary, Principal; Amy Bagwell, Wren Elementary, Assistant Principal; Jason Lesley, Spearman Elementary, Principal; Jane Ayers, Spearman Elementary, Assistant Principal; Carrie Pennington, Hunt Meadows, Principal; Vacant, Hunt Meadows, Assistant Principal;

Also Robby Roach, Palmetto High, Principal; Vacant, Palmetto High, Assistant Principal; Director of Freshman Acad.; Vacant, Palmetto High, Assistant Principal; Jason McCauley, Palmetto Middle, Principal; Jennifer Couch, Palmetto Middle, Assistant Principal; Bobby McGowans, Palmetto Middle, Assistant Principal.

Also Dr. Chris Ferguson, Powdersville High, Principal; Lauree Cole, Powdersville High, Assistant Principal; Phillip Bramblett, Powdersville High, Assistant Principal; Todd Binnicker, Powdersville Middle, Principal; Mark McCall, Powdersville Middle Assistant Principal; Nicole Boseman, Wren High, Principal;

Vacant, Wren High, Assistant Principal/Director of Freshman Academy; Chris Chapman, Wren High, Assistant Principal; Seth Young, Wren Middle, Principal; Charles Edmondson, Wren Middle, Assistant Principal; Angie Phillips, Wren Middle, Assistant Principal; Janice Walpole, Adult Education, Director; Benny Bridges, District Bus Supervisor; Kelly Quirk, School Psychologist; Laura Hammond, School Psychologist; Felicia Cunningham, School Psychologist; Michelle Rop, School Psychologist; Elizabeth Wittebort, Family Literacy Coordinator/Mental Health Counselor.

At local businesses

Counterfeit bills being circulated

The Williamston Police Department is warning local businesses that a number of counterfeit \$100 bills have been passed in the area recently.

According to Captain Marsee, the Williamston Police Department and the Secret Service are working diligently to catch and prosecute offenders.

"As a deterrent we are working closely with the Secret Service to hand out flyers that can be hung in your business to let the would be criminals know you are checking bills and also that your business understands what to look for."

Any local business owner who would like to have a copy of the flyer can stop by the Williamston Police Department to get one for their place of business.

CTC plant sale next week

The Anderson Districts One and Two Career and Technology Center Plant, Animal and Wildlife Science Plant Sale will begin next week.

EARLY BIRD SALE is Tuesday- Friday April 4th- April 7th 9:00a.m. - 2:30p.m.

SPRING BREAK SALE will be Friday April 14th, 9:00a.m. 2:30p.m.

APRIL 18-28 there will be no weekend sales.

Mon., Tues., and Wed., 9:00 11:00a.m. and 12:30 2:30p.m.

Thurs. and Fri. 9:00a.m. 2:30p.m.

The Career and Technology Center is located on Hwy. 20 just outside of Williamston at 702 Belton Highway.

For informatin call Audie Green 864-847-4121ext. 2119.

Shiloh Church Road to close for bridge work

The County's Roads and Bridges Department will close a portion of Shiloh Church Road near Highway 17 in the Wren community on Tuesday, April 4, to replace the west bridge near Shiloh Creek Subdivision.

The roadway will be closed between Highway 17 and Cane Hill Drive C-01-0307 for approximately one year. The new bridge is scheduled to be open to traffic by April 4, 2018.

The existing road and bridge near Highway 17 is too narrow for the volume of trucks using the road. The new bridge will be a 30 feet long precast concrete hollow-cored slab, 33-feet wide with concrete parapets on each side. Approximately 1,000 feet of roadway near intersection of Highway 17 will be reconstructed. Estimated construction cost of \$240,000 funded through the County's general fund with Roads and Bridges providing labor and equipment.

The posted detour will follow Highway 17 north to Hurricane Creek Road

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Please join the Anderson County Republican Party for the 2017 County Convention.

Business will include the election of County Republican Officers and the selection of delegates and alternates to the State Republican Party Convention.

For information please contact Dan Harvell, ACRP chairman at 864-221-1221 or email at dharvell@scs.com. You may also visit our website at www.andersonscgop.org

Glennview Middle School
2575 Old Williamston Road Anderson
April 17, 2017 6:30 pm

- Weddings
- Engagements
- Announcements

Happenings

- Birthdays
- Reunions

Town honors volunteers at Appreciation Dinner

The Town of Williamston sponsored a volunteer appreciation dinner on March 16, in the gym at town hall. A St. Patrick's Day décor theme was followed and was continued in Mayor Durham's opening statement of the evening... "We Are Lucky to Have You."

Pastor Robbie Robertson led in the Invocation and dinner was served. Following meat and three dinners with green cake for dessert, Mayor Durham gave a short presentation on "Empowering and Appreciating." He explained how each volunteer plays a valuable part in the Quality of Life triangle that is used as a tool in showing how roles are played out between citizens, elected officials and governmental bodies to grow a community.

He explained that volunteers make up a majority of the leadership of events and are included in decision making within the town, allowing us to work toward becoming a model community. The mayor said that there are well over 150 volunteers, while the town has approximately 42 employees. He stressed that each person who helps can make a difference.

Mayor Durham then recognized the Committee chair of each group who participated during the 2016 calendar year.

The chairs in turn recognized their group. The Event Chairs were recognized and they in turn recognized their group.

A video slideshow displaying all events and committees at work was displayed throughout the evening, and included memorial photos for past volunteers, LaDane Baker, Keith Watkins, Tommy Walker, and Walt Smith, complements of Jack Ellenburg and Cindy Robertson.

Mayor Durham and Debbie Chapman presented the Volunteer of the Year Award-2016 to David Meade. David has worked very hard to coordinate and ensure the success of the Springwater Festival for several years, participates and leads in Envision Williamston events and Boards, is active within the Palmetto Business Association, and is always willing to give an extra hand when needed.

Door prizes of Shamrocks were given away at each table and "I AM" Williamston South Carolina t-shirts were given to each participant and guest as a token of thanks.

In addition, awards were presented by Sonya Crandall, Executive Director of Envision Williamston, and Roxanne Ellison Hall, at an Envision Williamston Board meeting, in recognition of Roberta Hamby and Jim Simpson for their outstanding community service efforts.

The community is invited to Friend the "Town of Williamston" and "Envision Williamston" Facebook pages!



Volunteer of the Year

Mayor Mack Durham presents a plaque to David Meade who was named Volunteer of the Year for his many contributions to the Town of Williamston.



Shadowbox presented to veteran

American Legion Post 121 recently presented local veteran Jack D. Dalton, Senior Chief Store Keeper, a shadowbox of his medals and military service. Dalton is a U.S. Navy Veteran of Korea and Vietnam. He served from March 25, 1952 to February 16, 1972 aboard the USS Grainger, AK-184. He has been a member of the Legion for 42 years. Commander Billy Raines made the presentation.

Fentanyl adds to opiate abuse

Narconon wants to educate families on the new escalated risk Fentanyl has added to opiate abuse. Fentanyl has been found to be 50 to 100 times more potent than heroin and has a greatly increased chance of overdose.

Learn more about the new dangers of opiate addiction and the details on Fentanyl. Learn more by visiting <http://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/fentanyl-laced-heroin-worsening-overdose-crisis.html>

ADDICTION SCREENINGS

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals. 1-800-431-1754

Piedmont Lions Club Fundraiser March 30th

The Piedmont Lions Club will have a fundraiser at BoJangles in Piedmont at I-85 & Hwy.86.

The event will be held on Thursday, March 30th from 5-8 PM. The Piedmont Lions will receive a percentage on all sales during this time. All proceeds from this fundraiser will be applied to sight conservation projects. A spokesman said, "Please have dinner at BoJangles and support the Lions of Piedmont." For more information, call 864-845-3281.



Simpson honored

Sonya Crandall, Executive Director of Envision Williamston (left) and Roxanne Ellison Hall presented an award to Jim Simpson for outstanding community service.



Hamby recognized for service

Roberta Hamby (left) was recognized by Envision Williamston for outstanding community service. The award was presented by Sonya Crandall, Executive Director.

Benefit sale and car wash April 8

A yard sale, bake sale and car wash will be held on April 8 at THE CORE, 8649 Augusta Road in Pelzer. There will also be hot dogs for sale.

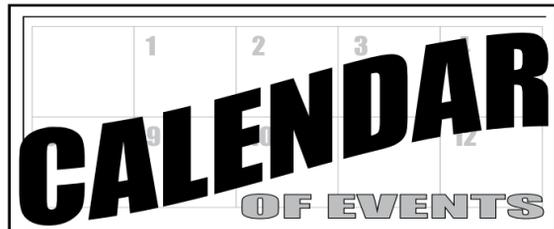
This is a benefit for The Community Center of South Greenville sponsored by Oak Pointe Church.

Las Vegas: all the amenities of modern society in a habitat unfit to grow a tomato. - Jason Love

Shiloh UMC Chili Cook-off April 2nd

Shiloh United Methodist Church will hold their Eighth annual chili cook-off on Sunday, April 2nd, at 12:00 Noon after the Worship Service. There will be a variety of desserts along with tea and coffee to serve with the chili.

The church is located at 135 Reid-Bagwell Rd, Piedmont. The minister of the church is Rev. Perry Evatt. For further information call: 864-845-5058.



COMING EVENTS

April 1 - Whitefield Easter Celebration, 10 a.m. - noon, Whitefield Baptist Church, 207 Mitchell Road, Belton. Easter Egg hunt, bouncy house, miniature train rides, and snacks. Everyone is invited.

April 2 - Williamston First Baptist Church, 11 a.m., Praise and Worship Choir presents "The Tomb is Empty Now" musical portraying the passion of the Christ through song.

April 30 - New Beginnings Full Gospel Church, Chosen in concert, 11 a.m. The church is located at 350 Rehoboth School Road in Piedmont.

MEETINGS

Williamston Church of God, Gossett Street, Williamston is offering painting classes every Tuesday night from 5:30 - until. Come and enjoy painting ceramics.

Williamston Senior Citizens meet every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Caroline Center. Bring a covered dish to share. Everyone age 50 and above are welcome.

Pelzer Seniors meet the last Saturday of each month at the Pelzer Community Building behind Bi-Lo, 5 pm. Everyone is welcome, all seniors in and around Pelzer, single or married, bring a covered dish and one dollar.

Cub Scout Pack 356 - meets every Monday from 6-7 p.m. at the Grace United Methodist Church Activity Center. Cub Scouts is open to all boys in grades first through fifth. For more info email cubscoutspack356@gmail.com.

The Palmetto Business Association (former GWBA) meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at different member locations.

The American Legion meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. The Auxiliary meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m. The Sons of American Legion (SAL) meets every 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:15 p.m. Welcome anyone interested in joining the Legion or Auxiliary. For those who are interested in attending a meeting call 864-847-4242.

Caroline Center Senior Activities: Zumba classes, at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and again at 6:30 p.m. Regular exercise on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. Over Easy Exercise on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m.

Oxycise classes, Piedmont Wesleyan Church, Wednesdays through June at 7 p.m. at the Family Life Center, 504 Anderson Street, Piedmont. For more info call 777-0792.

Williamston AA Group open meeting every Tuesday and Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the back at Grace United Methodist Church across from McDonald's. There are no more meetings in Belton and there are no other meetings in Williamston. For more info call 864-958-5181.

Williamston Area Historic Commission regular monthly meeting date third Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Williamston Municipal Center.

COMMUNITY

Presbyterian Food Pantry is open Mondays from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and Tuesdays from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. at 308 Williams Street in Williamston. Also open from 9 - 11 a.m. the third Saturday each month.

God's Food Pantry, South Greenville/Greenville. For info and/or locations call (864) 963-4441.

Call Narconon for a free brochure on the signs of addiction for all types of drugs. Narconon also offers free assessments and referrals. 800-431-1754 or DrugAbuseSolution.com.

LuLaPalooza
Multi-Fashion Retailer
Event
Saturday, April 1, 2017
10am-1pm
727 Anderson St, Suite E
Belton, SC
WHERE FASHION MEETS COMFORT
Katherine Chikazales Cole Louis
Melody Miles Christina Phillips

Community Prayer Gathering
The doors of the Cedar Grove Sanctuary will open every Tuesday from 12:00 noon- 12:30 for Prayer beginning April 4th. The primary focus will be to pray for our country, our state, our county, local churches, revival among God's people and a spiritual awakening of repentance and faith in Christ across our land. Please join us.
Cedar Grove Baptist Church
13024 Highway 20, Belton (Cheddar)
Church office: 864-847-4434
www.cgbcbelton.org
if my people...
2 Chronicles 7:14

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New Beginnings FGC Chosen in concert April 30
Chosen will be in concert at New Beginning Full Gospel Church on Sunday, April 30 at 11 a.m. The church is located at 350 Rehoboth School Road in Piedmont.

Ware Place COG Churchwide Yard sale April 1
Ware Place Church of God will have a churchwide yard sale on Saturday, April 1 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Biscuits will also be on sale from 8 - 10 a.m.

FORREST COLLEGE
"Small College.... Big Difference"
You're Invited!
Spring Open House
Wednesday, April 12, 2017
11 a.m.—2 p.m.
Come meet the Deans, Admissions Team and Program Coordinators. Free child-care available while you attend.
For more information, please call 864-225-7653 or visit our website at www.forrestcollege.edu.
Located at 601 E. River Street in Anderson, SC.



Powerline down across Hwy 8

Piercetown firefighters work at the scene after a power line fell across Highway 8 near Highway 17 Sunday morning. A tree fell and took the power line down. A pickup truck struck the line as it was across the roadway. No one was injured. The road was closed for approximately forty-five minutes until power crews removed the line. (Photo by David Rogers)

40 years service

Riverbanks Zoo Director retires June 30, 2017

Satch Krantz, president and CEO of Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, has announced plans to retire on June 30, 2017 marking the end of an era in Zoo history.

Krantz, a native of Columbia, began his tenure at Riverbanks in 1973 as supervisor of the Zoo's animal hospital after graduating from Clemson University. He was promoted to executive director (now president and CEO) in 1976 at the age of 26. Krantz is one of only two individuals to serve as the Zoo's executive director; he also is the longest serving zoo director in the nation.

"I have been blessed with a wonderfully rewarding career," said Satch Krantz, president and CEO of Riverbanks

Zoo and Garden. "All along I've had a supportive governing authority, an incredibly talented staff and a community that cares deeply for its zoo. I've also had the opportunity to work with many great professionals throughout my 44 years in this often wacky business."

Krantz's wisdom and direction have been instrumental in Riverbanks' role as a powerful economic driver in the Midlands. Under his leadership, Riverbanks has evolved from a small, financially troubled zoo in its early years to one of the top zoos in the world and South Carolina's largest gated tourist attraction that consistently welcomes more than one-million visitors each

year. The Zoo boasted its largest-ever attendance in 2016 with nearly 1.3 million guests following the completion of Destination Riverbanks—a \$40 million dollar park-wide expansion and the largest in Zoo history.

"The journey has been incredible," said Krantz. "In the beginning, the Zoo's future was at many times in doubt but with increasing public support and opportunities for development, we began to gain momentum, and our progress has not slowed. I cannot think of a better time for Riverbanks to transition into new leadership."

In addition to leading the pack at Riverbanks, Krantz is one of only three American zoo directors to have served as both president of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Because of his guidance, Riverbanks is continuously recognized as a global leader in wildlife conservation and is an influential participant in more than 70 of the AZA's Species Survival Programs.

"Satch is the only zoo director to be elected twice as Chair of the AZA's Board of Directors which is a testament to the tremendous respect his colleagues have for him," said Kris Vehrs, interim president and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. "Satch has demonstrated great passion for improving the AZA's animal sustainability programs and has been integral in moving those programs forward. In 2013, he was awarded the prestigious R. Marlin Perkins award for professional excellence: the highest honor bestowed upon a zoo professional by the AZA."

Krantz also has been heavily involved in the community Riverbanks serves. He is a past president of the board of Palmetto Health Children's Hospital and the Columbia Rotary Club. He has also served as president of the Clemson University Board of Visitors and the University of South Carolina University Associates. In 2012, Krantz was awarded Clemson's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor that the Clemson Alumni Association can bestow upon an alumnus or alumna.

"There is no question that Satch's unwavering commitment to Riverbanks and our community will have an impact for generations to come," said Mary Howard, chair of Riverbanks Park Commission. "With Satch's oversight, the Zoo has become a cherished place where families and school children can experience and connect with the natural world. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside Satch as a longstanding member of the Riverbanks Park Commission. He is a true visionary, a profound leader, and he will leave behind a legacy that is second to none."

Mt Pleasant News

"God's Design" is sermon topic

by Aletha Simpson
MPBC Month of MARCH THEME: "The Holy Spirit" SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:1-14. CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Duncan Creek Baptist Church, Rev. Derrick Barksdale, Laurens.

Join someone's Sunday school this year and we invite you to MPBC Sunday School every Sunday at 10am.

Pastor Mattison's topic was "God's Design" Ephesians 1:11-14. You know you are God's Design by Announce our sources who we belong to, Acknowledge a standard, and Assured by God's Salvation.

First Sunday Prayer and Time for Reflection; Join us each first Sunday at 9:30 am

as we gather in the Sanctuary for Prayer Service and Quiet Time. Be thankful!

MPBC Bible study Wednesdays at 6pm. Join us each week for a spirit-filled bible based Christian educational experience. If you want up-to-date news on church events and what is going on in the community, go to the MPBC website and sign up! Website: Mtplesantwilliamston.com.

Remember them in prayer our sick and shut-in members, friends, and those in Bereavement: Rose Owens, Ansell Smith, Quetta Sitton, Lois Slade, Janie Brownlee, Mary Lou Reid, Marcus Reid, Mary Tate, Annie Westfield, and everyone else near and

far. You shall serve the Lord your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you. Exodus 23:25.

Happy Birthday to the Celebrants!!! MARCH BIRTHDAYS: Steve Foster 3, Lymarion Acker 5, Tamyra Dawson 5, Bernard Smith 8, Aiyana Smith 13, Mariyah Gaines 14, Edith Jones 15, Phyllis Serrano 15, Crystal Smith 15, Avery Butler 29, Aletha Simpson 31, Malik Tate 31, Morris Tate 31. ANNIVERSARIES: Walter and Dorothy Smith, Sr. 18.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: The Will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.

New Hopewell News

"Shepherding Love" is Sunday School topic

By Willie J. Wright
"Shepherding Love" will be



the main topic for discussion on April 2nd during Sunday School. The scripture lesson can be found by reading Psalm 23:1-6 in the Bible.

The author of Psalm 23 was David who was well acquainted with sheep.

The Lord is like a great shepherd to His people because He provides all that is needed. He knows that we need a certain amount of positivity, health, finances, relationships and contribution. We should live like we trust God to take care of His people. The Lord doesn't keep His people out of all danger, but the Lord will see them through the danger, and He guides us through the troubles. God has much for those who obey His will.

Gideon International representatives were visitors on

last Sunday at New Hopewell Baptist Church during worship. They shared God's word in distributing Bibles throughout the world, in many different languages in order for people to become familiar in knowing God as their personal Savior, in seeing lost souls saved by sharing God's Word.

Youth Sunday was held last Sunday with emphasis on the scripture in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is part of it." The apostle Paul compared the church to a human body, pointing out that all parts of the body contribute to the healthy operation of the whole.

Rev. David Burns, Associate Minister at New Hopewell Baptist Church, on last Sunday delivered the morning worship service message.

He took his text from the Scripture in the Bible, 2 Peter 3:18 and sermonized on the topic "God's Amazing Grace."

Whatever you are going through the Lord will give you some grace. You must be born

again of the Spirit. The Bible says grow in grace and knowledge of Christ. Don't be afraid to let others know that you are in God's hands. Fear the Lord all your days. Are you praying for your children? The Bible says that you will reap what you sow. Believers should live as holy and godly people continuing to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Remember to pray for all the sick and shut-in and visit them whenever possible. Our prayers and sympathies are extended to all bereaved families who have lost their loved ones.

"Happy Birthday" to all birthday celebrants during the month of March. Wish you many more by trusting and abiding in the Lord.

Prayer requested for the following: Birdie Chapman, Grace Dean, Henry Cherry, Annie Mae Telford, Glenda Chapman Oliver, Martha Arnold Sylvesters, Mae Carrie Mattison.

Thought for the week: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." - Psalm 23:1

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING AND ELECTION

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF ANDERSON

A special election will be held in Anderson County to fill an unexpired term for State Senate District 3. The election will be held between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM on the 30th day of May 2017.

This election will be held under new rules for providing Photo ID at the polling place. Voters will be asked to provide one of the following Photo IDs:

S.C. Driver's License

ID Card issued by S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles

S.C. Voter Registration Card with Photo

Federal Military ID

U.S. Passport

If you have one of these IDs, you are ready to vote. Voters should remember to bring one of these IDs with them to the polling place. Voters without Photo ID can get one free of charge from the Department of Motor Vehicles or their county voter registration office. Voters who encounter an obstacle to getting a Photo ID should bring their paper voter registration card without a photo with them to their polling place. These voters can then sign an affidavit swearing to their identity and to their obstacle to obtaining a Photo ID and vote a provisional ballot. This ballot will count unless the county election commission has grounds to believe the affidavit is false. For more information on Photo ID, visit scvotes.org or contact your county election commission.

At 9:00 a.m. on Election Day the County Election Board will begin its examination of the absentee ballot return envelopes at 301 North Main Street, Anderson, SC 29621, Phone - 864-260-4035.

On Friday, June 2nd at 9:30 a.m. the County Board of Canvassers will hold a hearing to determine the validity of all provisional ballots cast in this election. This hearing will be held at 301 North Main Street, Anderson, SC 29621.

The following precincts and polling places will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.:

Precincts	Polling Place
Appleton-Eggsboro	Taylor Memorial Church Gymnasium 711 Glens St, Anderson SC 29625
Bishop's Branch	Refuge Baptist Church 219 Refuge Church Rd, Central SC 29630
Bowling Green	Whitefield Fire Station 4000 Hwy 29 N, Belton SC 29827
Brushy Creek	Wren Middle School 1010 Wren School Rd, Piedmont SC 29673
Centerville Station A	Centerville Elementary School 1529 Whitshall Rd, Anderson SC 29625
Concrete	Concrete Primary School 315 Powderhouse Lane, Easley SC 29642
Deaver-Sandy Springs	Sandy Springs Fire Station 740 Blackman Rd, Pendleton SC 29670

Edgewood Station A	The Carpenter's Church 1610 Peasman Dairy Rd, Anderson SC 29625
Five Forks	Lalson Baptist Ch Activity Building 5150 Geary Rd, Anderson SC 29621
Funk No. 1	Oakdale Baptist Church 6724 Hwy 24, Townville SC 29689
Funk No. 2	Double Springs Fire Station 2601 Old Dobbin Bridge Rd, Townville SC 29689
Green Pond Station A	New Prospect Mt. Ch. Fellowship Hall 7503 Whitshall Rd, Anderson SC 29625
Hammond School	Milway Elementary School 1221 Hazlett Cr, Anderson SC 29621
Hopewell	T. L. Hams High School 2600 Hwy 81 N, Anderson SC 29621
LaFrance	LaFrance Elementary School 350 Williams St, Pendleton SC 29670
Melton	Mount Able Baptist Church 130 Mt. Able Church Rd, Pendleton SC 29670
Mount Taber	Zion United Methodist Church 5708 Hwy 187, Anderson SC 29625
North Pointe	North Pointe Elementary School 3325 Highway 81 N, Anderson SC 29621
Pendleton	Pendleton Elementary School 902 E. Queen St, Pendleton SC 29670
Piercetown	Piercetown Fire Station 5150 Hwy 81 N, Williamston SC 29697
Rock Mill	Williford Fire Station 3738 Hwy 187 S, Anderson SC 29626
Three & Twenty	Three & Twenty Fire Station 1301 Three & Twenty Rd, Easley SC 29642
Townville	Townville Baptist Church 8816 Hwy 24, Townville SC 29689
Town Creek	Montessori School of Anderson 280 Sam McGee Rd, Anderson SC 29621
White Plains	White Plains Community Center 7431 Midway Rd, Pelzer SC 29669
Anderson 1/2	Whitshall Elementary School 702 Whitshall Rd, Anderson SC 29625
Anderson 1/2	Concord Elementary School 2701 Calhoun Rd, Anderson SC 29621
Anderson 2/1	Central Presbyterian Church 1404 North Boulevard, Anderson SC 29621
Anderson 2/2	McCants Middle School 2123 Marchbanks Ave, Anderson SC 29621
Anderson 6/1	Trinity United Methodist Church 1809 N Main St, Anderson SC 29621
Centerville Station B	Centerville Elementary School 1529 Whitshall Rd, Anderson SC 29625
Edgewood Station B	Anderson Christian Sch / Hope Fellowship 213 Brown Rd, Anderson SC 29621
Cox's Creek	Aliding Senior Lutheran Church 1903 E. Greenville St, Anderson SC 29621
Mt. Airy	Mt. Airy Baptist Church 210 Mt. Airy Church Rd, Easley SC 29642

Powderhouse	Powderhouse Middle School 135 Hood Rd, Greenville SC 29611
Glennview	Glennview Middle School 2575 Old Williamston Rd, Anderson SC 29621
Hammond Annex	Anderson Area YMCA 201 East Reed Rd, Anderson SC 29621
Center Rock	McLenn Academy of Leadership 4900 Dobbin Bridge Rd, Anderson SC 29626
Hunt Meadows	Hunt Meadows Elementary School 420 Hunt Rd., Easley SC 29642
Absentee Voting	Registration and Elections 301 North Main St, Anderson SC 29621

USC Upstate

Local students named to Fall 2016 Chancellor's List

The following local students have been named to the Fall 2016 Chancellor's List at USC Upstate

From Pelzer: Kaila Bailey, Caroline Brooks, Brandon Moore, Shania Partridge-Miller, and Jamie Swann.

From Piedmont: Andrea Bishop, Kyle Morella, and Melissa Smith.

From Easley: Aubrey Arch, Tina Cartledge, Rena Herring, Tabitha Schofield, From Williamston: Robert Housley, Jason Roberts, and

Thomas Sisk.

From Belton: Ryan Rector. And from Greenville: Kendall Richey and Delmy Salazar.

To be eligible for the Chancellor's List, students must earn a 4.0 and be enrolled in at least 12 course hours.

USC Upstate

Local students named to Fall 2016 Dean's List

The following local students have been named to the Fall 2016 Dean's List at USC Upstate

From Piedmont: Lillie Bayne, Kaitlyn Black, Amanda Corrow, Jamie Estes, Logan Hauntsman, Kayla Lockaby, Matthew McDonald, Karen Padula, Mollie Waters and Milagros Rodriguez.

From Pelzer: Alex Free-

man, Cherie Gilstrap, Ashley Jones, Fabiana Lopez, and Jennifer Sherman.

From Williamston: Samuel Moss.

From Easley: Cassidy Bryant, Aspen Durham, Lindsey Hamilton, Austin Hastings, Chandler Moore, Catherine Pelicano, and Anna Weisner.

From Greenville: Lilia

Medina, Amanda Raines, and William Urich.

From Belton: Mackenzie Wilkie.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, freshmen students must earn a 3.25 or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 course hours and upperclassmen must earn a 3.5 or higher and be enrolled in at least 12 course hours.

Tire maintenance a key component of spring check-up

When warm weather arrives, many people enjoy a collective sigh of relief. Just as people welcome the end of the cold, snow and ice, cars and trucks also can benefit from more moderate temperatures.

Salt, grime and pot holes can take a toll on tires over the course of a typical winter. Drivers will not get far this spring and summer without tires in good repair, which is why tire maintenance should be part of any seasonal repair checklist.

Now is the time to use a tire pressure gauge to see if tires are at the ideal inflation

levels. Many tires indicate the recommended PSI (pounds per square inch) on their sidewalls. Cold temperatures may cause tires to deflate a little. Esurance states that winter weather can cause tire pressure reduction at about one PSI for every 10 degrees the temperature drops. Driving on improperly inflated tires can be dangerous, potentially affecting handling and braking distances.

Check tires when they are cold for the most accurate reading. Properly inflated tires also will improve fuel economy, so drivers may even save a little money by inflating their tires.

Examine the tires for tread wear. Any uneven or abnormal tread wear could indicate that the tires need to be rotated and the wheels realigned at the very least. Take the vehicle to a qualified mechanic to get their opinion on how to rem-

edy the situation. Mechanics may recommend rotating tires every 6,000 to 8,000 miles, or about every six months for the average driver.

Wheel realignment may be necessary after a season of driving over potholes and other irregularities in the road. Misaligned wheels can cause handling problems, like the car "pulling" to one side.

Drivers may discover extreme tread wear, bulges or even cracks in the sidewall during a tire inspection. These signs indicate that it's time to replace the tires. Failing to replace old, worn down tires can increase the risk of automobile accidents.

Once tires are inspected and possibly serviced or replaced, treat the car or truck to a washing and thorough detailing. This will help tires shine and get the vehicle road-ready for spring trips.



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Open Door Community News

Couples enjoy Retreat in Gatlinburg

By Vicki Simpson

Verse of the Week: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:19-20)

Well, church folks, Sunday was missing quite a few members of our church as most of our couples went on the annual Couples' Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN led by our Pastor and his wife. Needless to say, when Baptists go to church, they usually sit in the same places each week if no one takes their usual seat, and Sunday, all the seats of some of our couples were still empty. My husband and I didn't go due to conflicting event dates but maybe next year we can make it.

We had a guest speaker, Jamie Crawford, from Tabernacle Baptist Church in Pelzer, and he did an excellent job. It was so nice seeing his wife, Regina, again who I had previously met and also meeting Jamie's mother. His message, called "Are You A Fan?" came from Matthew, Mark and John in the last chapters where Jesus left a message to his disciples. The sermon shows us not to be JUST fans of Jesus, but to be followers and witnesses for HIM in our everyday lives.

In others words, put your feet to the gospel, not just your thinking. We are to be HIS feet and hands, and we are to show others that we are sinners, saved by Grace and tell them how Jesus became a part of our lives and how He changed us. "Go ye into all the lands..." So, are you just a Fan of God's or are you HIS team player?

Those who went on the Couples' Retreat last weekend said it was, as usual, a fun trip even though one of the couples had their keys locked in the car. I won't mention the name of the person responsible, but I'm sure Tony was forgiven. LOL! They went to Mel's Diner in Pigeon Forge where most indulged in big burgers and the triple banana split dessert - especially our Pastor and Jan. I heard a story about a fake birthday celebration and one about the "fried boiled eggs." However, if you want to hear these stories, you will have to ask Daniel Yarborough, Donnie Epps and Faye Chapman. There's not enough space to add but they are amusing. But, as you can tell by the photo, they had a nice group who enjoyed the trip very much.

Special Days: 3/30-Doctors' Day; 3/31-Crayola Crayon Day.

Upcoming Events: Easter Picnic Lunch this coming Sunday (4/2) following morning service. Everyone is asked to bring sandwiches, salads,

chips, and drinks. Easter Egg Hunt to follow. No evening service.

April 8th will be a work day, mostly for the guys and anyone who wants to help is to be at the church by 8 a.m. If you have any questions, please see Randy Creamer.

Easter "Sonrise" Service is 4/16 at 7a.m. Morning Worship at 10a.m. No evening service.

More events are planned in the coming months and I will add as they get closer.

Birthdays of the Week: Bubba Green (3/29)

Kids Joke of the Week: Q) What do you call an egg from outer space? A) An egg-stra terrestrial.

Quote of the Week: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Patrick Henry)

If you don't have a church of your own, please visit ours. ODCC is a family church, a mission dedicated family, preparing people to meet Jesus through Love. Have a blessed week and tune in next time for Open Door and more with Miss Vicki.

In Service

Osland completes basic AF training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Caleb Osland graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Osland earned distinction as an honor graduate.

He is the son of Kendall and Michele Osland of Charleston, and brother of Aubrey Osland of Piedmont, and Luke Osland of Greenville.

The airman graduated in 2013 from Wren High School, Piedmont.

Palmetto Poison Center gives prevention tips

The Palmetto Poison Center recently observed National Poison Prevention Week. Each year more than 2 million calls are received at Poison Centers nationwide. According to the CDC, poisoning is the No. 1 cause of injury death in the US, with most of these deaths due to drug and medicine misuse and abuse. The Palmetto Poison Center received over 30,000 calls in 2016 from all counties in South Carolina and over half of the calls were for exposures in children under the age of 6 years.

Parents and caregivers can prevent unintentional poisonings by using child resistant packaging and keeping medicines and household products locked up and out of sight of children. Often new parents and caregivers, who are not accustomed to having small children in the home, are unaware of the dangers presented by everyday household products.

Colonial Native American heroine featured in Anderson meeting



Frankie Adkins discusses Catechee, the Indian Princess, at the March 18, meeting of Jacob Van der Ver Chapter, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century in Anderson.

The March 18, meeting of the Jacob Van der Ver Chapter, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, featured noted storyteller Frankie Adkins telling the legend of UpCountry South Carolina's Native American royalty, Isaqueena, also known as Catechee.

The meeting was opened by Jacob Van der Ver's 2017-2019 President, Julia Barnes. The Colonial Dames of the 17th Century chapter also meets with the Hudson Berry Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

The DAR chapter briefly convened so Regent Cynthia Campbell of Iva and Chapter Chaplain Regina Orzechowski of Townville could present new members Pamela Durham of Greenville and Barbara Warren of Iva with their DAR certificates.

Mrs. Barnes then resumed with the Colonial Dames portion of the meeting, introducing the speaker, Frankie Adkins. A native West Virginian she grew up in coastal North Carolina and spent most of her adult life in Charleston. She lives in Honea Path with her pharmacist husband, Wade Gambrell. Adkins is retired from a career as a school librarian in District One (Williamston) and has her masters degree in librarianship from the University of South Carolina. She began her storytelling career by getting her storyteller badge in Girl Scouts, and is past president

of the North Carolina Storytelling Guild. She is a member of the Speakers Bureau for the South Carolina DAR and is just finishing her 4th year as regent of the Catechee Chapter DAR. Adkins tells American history stories, Native American stories, ghost stories, Appalachian folklore and personal stories.

The name Catechee commemorates the noble Choctaw maiden, around whom tradition has woven a story of love and courage. She was called Issaqueena in Choctaw and Catechee in Cherokee, both names meaning 'Deer's Head.' Legend relates that Princess Catechee, Isaqueena, a beautiful Indian maiden, lived at Keowee with the Cherokee Nation. She fell in love with a young trader named Allen David Francis. Allen was a silversmith and hauled wagonloads of teakettles, mirrors, gunpowder, trinkets, salt and calico from the family trading post up the Cherokee Path to Keowee in return for animal hides and skins, bezoar stones, corn, tobacco, beans, herbs and roots. Allen sold his wares to the Cherokees and thus became acquainted with Catechee, whom he learned to love. When she heard of an intended raid by Indians she mounted her white pony and galloped away to warn Allen. She crossed the numbered creeks counting the miles on the beads until she reached old Ninety-Six to warn him of an impending attack but

found the stockade gates closed. When the Indians arrived, they could not enter but stayed in the neighborhood and later abducted Catechee and Allen Francis, and took them back to Keowee. Catechee fled with her baby toward a high water falls, the Cherokees were in pursuit. Princess Catechee poised over the falls, gave one mighty leap and went over the edge. Thinking she was dead; she had landed safely on a ledge under the falls with her baby. The falls have been named Issaqueena in her honor. Her husband escaped up the river. Catechee joined him and they went to Alabama to live. Francis became busy in the Indian community; he made silver spurs and other ornaments. Their son grew to be a fine man and became a secretary to Sir Alexander Gillivray. A controversial Creek Indian leader in the 1780s and 1790s, Alexander McGillivray was one of many Southeastern Indians with a Native American mother and European father.

The Colonial Dames of the 17th Century is an organization that focuses upon the preservation of records and historic sites of the United States, and encourages historical colonial research. If anyone would like to learn more about the Chapter and wishes to join, please contact Julia Barnes at julia-barnes@charter.net. Meetings are held four times each year (Sept.-Jan.-March-May) in Anderson.



Pamela Durham of Greenville and Barbara Warren of Iva are welcomed into the Hudson Berry Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, by Chapter Chaplain Regina Orzechowski of Townville.



The Piedmont azalea, *Rhododendron canadense* is among eleven species of native azaleas featured at the Spring Native Plant sale on April 22. Photo by Richard and Teresa Ware.

Spring Native Plant Sale Saturday, April 22, Earth Day

The SC Native Plant Society's Spring Native Plant Sale will feature eleven species of Native azaleas in addition to a large selection of hard-to-find native wildflowers, shrubs, trees, vines, and ferns. The sale is from 9am to 1pm at Conestee Park, 840 Mauldin Road in Greenville. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted. Conestee Park is a three minute drive south of the Mauldin Road exit from I-85.

Native plants are plant species that have been growing in our area since before the time of Columbus. They are well-adapted to our local soils and climate. Wildlife, including pollinating insects, butterflies and birds are adapted to the native plants. For example, native azaleas host approximately 50 kinds of butterfly and moth caterpillars while Crepe myrtle, an import from Asia, supports only three American Lepidoptera. For the homeowner who wants to create a more sustainable, wildlife friendly landscape, native plants are a good option. Even a modest increase in the native plant cover on suburban properties significantly increases the

number and species of breeding birds.

The Native Plant Sale includes plants with beautiful color, form and a variety of bloom times in addition to providing preferred habitat, nectar and food for native wildlife. Experts will be on hand to assist in selecting appropriate plants for sun, shade, wet, and dry habitats. Seven local guest vendors of native plants and plant products will also be at the sale, including Carnivorous Plants, Carolina Wild, Earthen Organics, Natives, By George, Natives Plus Nursery, Natures Organics, and Wildside Garden. Dr. Jan Haldeman will be on hand to discuss the issues of non-native invasive plant species. Nature and plant books will be available for purchase at the book table. For more information visit www.scnps.org and look at April 22 on the activities calendar.

The South Carolina Native Plant Society (www.scnps.org) is a non-profit organization working to preserve, protect and restore native plant communities in South Carolina.



March 29 is National Lemon Chiffon Cake Day, National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day, National Little Red Wagon Day, and Manatee Appreciation Day.

March 30 is National Doctors Day, National I Am In Control Day, National Pencil Day, National Take A Walk In The Park Day, and National Turkey Neck Soup Day.

March 31 is National Clams on the Half Shell Day, National Crayon Day, and National Tater Day.

National Cleaning Week is March 26-April 1.

Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow is March 27-29.

National Protocol Officers Week is March 26-April 1.

Nano Days is March 25-April 2.

Taken from www.national-dailycalendar.com

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Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Program Performance and Accomplishments

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 5, 2017 at 7 pm at Town Hall, the Town of Williamston will hold a public hearing concerning to review program performance and accomplishments conducted under a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project known as 4-CI-14-021, Pine Crest Sewer Upgrade project wherein the following activities:

Project consisted of replacing 1811 linear feet of 10" sewer line, 406 linear feet of 8" sewer line and 18 manholes. A total of 183 homes were in target area. New lines will be serving approximately 411 residents. Total of CDBG funds requested was \$503,468.

This public hearing and the matters to be discussed are subject to the provisions of the Town of Williamston's Citizen Participation Plan, developed in anticipation of participation in the State of South Carolina's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, providing for the participation of the citizens of the Town of Williamston in the planning and implementation of community and economic development projects which will involve CDBG funds.

The Citizen Participation Plan and the application are available for review at Town Hall, 12 West Main Street, Williamston SC 29697, M-F, 9 am to 5 pm. Persons with questions or comments concerning the public hearing or the Citizen Participation Plan may contact Arlene Young, Grants Director, PO Box 6668, Greenville SC 29606, 864-242-9733.

The Town of Williamston does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its federally assisted programs or activities. Michelle Starnes, Clerk/Treasurer, 12 West Main Street, Williamston SC 29697, 864-847-7473 and TDD 800-735-290 has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations.

News from the Grove

Family Jump Night Friday; Blood Drive Saturday

by Bobby Partain

We hope that you have all been enjoying the return of spring as we have been having some beautiful weather this past week. Spring is always one of my favorite times of the year with all the trees that are blooming, the red buds and the dogwoods are lovely. There is nothing quite like springtime in the South.

Pastor Mike talked this week about the faithfulness of God to his people. In 2 Samuel 7, King David wanted to build a house for the Lord, but that wasn't the will of God. Nathan told him that his son would be the one to build his house. He also said that the coming Messiah would come through the line of David. In verse 13 it says "He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." The faithfulness of God is proven through this chapter. God is faithful to us even when we are not faithful to God. Jesus has also been faithful to his people. Jesus is the head of the church and the church is the body of Christ. We can do nothing without Jesus as he is our shepherd and he has proven through his death his faithfulness to his flock. God and Jesus have been faithful to us in all things and we need to be faithful to them. Revelation 2:10b "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." As God's sons and daughters

we will have a part of the everlasting kingdom.

We enjoyed celebrating with Jared and Nichole Partain with a baby shower for their daughter due in May. This is their first child and always an exciting time. It was well attended and they appreciated the thoughtfulness of their church family. We look forward to a new addition to the family.

We thank everyone who donated money for Marching for Missions this past month. All money collected will be sent to Twiga, our school in Kilgoris, Kenya. We received over \$750, which will help the school in providing an education and food for all the children attending.

We look forward to our Family Jump Night at Gravitopia in Greenville this Friday, March 31st. We will meet there and all youth and parents are invited to attend.

Saturday, April 1st, we will have a blood drive at Guthrie Grove. The blood drive will begin at 7am and there will be a breakfast provided. Anyone from our congregation benefits from this with the Blood Assurance Program. Thank you to everyone who gives the gift of life.

Our favorite verse this week is from Jared Partain. Jared is the son of Bobby Lee and Angie Partain, he is the husband of Nichole (Ziner), and they are expecting their first

child, a girl, in May. He is a lifelong member at GG, he picked Isaiah 65:23-24 "They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." He said these verses remind him of the love that God has for his children and closeness that we will have with Him one day thanks to the sacrifice of His son.

Happy birthday to: Ann Durham, Berry Durham, Suzanne Mayberry, Hudson Fricks, Phyllis Davis, Anita Naumoff, Cate Meunier, and Craig Davenport. Congratulations are in order for Bobby and Fae Smith as they celebrate their wedding anniversary.

A little humor for the week: Q: Did you know that they had automobiles in Jesus' time?

A: Yes, the Bible says that the disciples were all in one Accord.

Please contact us if you are searching for a church or you are interested in what we mean when we talk about the Kingdom of God, Oneness of God, or the sleep of the dead. Guthrie Grove Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith: 403 Guthrie Grove Church Rd, Pelzer. Phone 947-9717, web page: www.guthriegrove.org or Guthrie Grove Church on Facebook.



Truck overturns

A state trooper investigates at the scene of an accident on I-85 Sunday morning. A pickup truck overturned just north of Highway 153. Traffic was not impacted since the wreckage was clear of the roadway. Pelzer EMS and Powdersville firefighters also responded. (Photo by David Rogers)

Obituaries

ROBIN UPSHALL

PELZER—Teresa Robin Tucker Uphall, 51, wife of Alfred James "Alf" Uphall, passed away Sunday, March 26, 2017.

Born in Greenville, she was a daughter of Betty Tucker Childress of Piedmont and of the late Grover Childress. She was a teacher at Woodmont High School.

Additional survivors include brother, Benny Childress of Piedmont; sisters, Tammy Brown, of Greenville, Renee McKinney of Greenville, and Vickie Shirley of Pelzer.

Visitation was held Tuesday, March 28, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Gray Mortuary. The Service was Wednesday, March 29 at 3:00 p.m. in the mortuary chapel. Burial followed at Greenville Memorial Gardens.

The family is at the home of her mother, Betty Childress, 207 Vinewood Street, Piedmont, SC 29673.

Gray Mortuary, Pelzer
Condolences: www.gray-mortuary.com

CHARLES CALDWELL

Charles William Caldwell, 74, of Pelzer, husband of the late Mary Jo Mitchell Caldwell, died Thursday, March 23, 2017.

Born in Piedmont, he was a son of the late James Henry and Catherine Roach Caldwell. He was formerly employed with Greenville Mechanical Heating and Air and was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

He is survived by sons, Tony Caldwell and Travis Caldwell of Williamston; daughter, Tammy Smith of Easley; one brother; three sisters; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was held Saturday, March 25, at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Upstate, 1835 Rogers Rd., Anderson, SC 29621.

MILTON MYERS

Frank Milton Myers, 82, of Honea Path, husband of Elizabeth Davis Myers, died Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

He was retired from Page's Shoe Shop in Belton.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by children, Michael Myers, Steve Myers, Bryan Powell and Pam O'Shields; sisters, Jrotta McCoy and Mona Ruth Jordan; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

The family received friends Thursday, March 23, at the home of Bryan Powell, 114 Sandhurst Drive, Simpsonville, SC 29680.

SANDRA LOUISE GREER

Sandra Louise Greer, 69, of Easley, died Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

She was a daughter of the late Arthur Lester and Thelma Louise Smith Greer.

She was a member of Brandon UMC.

She is survived by a sister, Peggy Mullikin of Piedmont; and a brother, Arthur "Ossie" Greer of Simpsonville.

Funeral service was held Friday, March 24 at Thomas McAfee Funeral Home, Northwest. Burial followed in Graceland Cemetery, West.

CLARENCE R. SMITH

Clarence Roe Smith, 82, of Taylors, died March 21, 2017 at his home.

Born in Tigerville, he was son of the late Edward and Kate B. Robertson Smith.

He was retired from JP Stevens, Victor Mill and a U.S. Army Veteran.

Surviving are two daughters, Tammy Smith and Sandra Bostic, both of Easley; one son, Michael Smith of Easley; two brothers, Leonard Smith of Powdersville and Devoe Smith of Lyman; two sisters, Tweedie Mae Perry of Columbia and Margaret Gilbert of Knoxville, TN; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Friday, March 24 at Mountain View Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

DICK ERLENBAUGH

Dick Erlenbaugh, 75, of Simpsonville, husband of Patricia Ann Bolton Erlenbaugh, died Thursday, March 23, 2017.

Born in Villa Park, IL, he was a son of the late Ralph Erlenbaugh and the late Marguerite Becker Erlenbaugh.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one son, Mark Erlenbaugh of Pelzer; one daughter, Ann Marie Bynum of Simpsonville; and five grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be held Friday, March 31 at 4 p.m. at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. A Celebration of Life will follow in the school gym.

Memorials may be made to Notre Dame Club of the Western Carolinas.

JESSIE BARNETTE

Jessie Newton Barnette, 66, of Pelzer, husband of Brenda Kelly Barnette, died Monday, March 27, 2017 at McCall Hospice House.

He was son of the late Claude and Mary Ellen Barnette.

In addition to his wife of the home, he is survived by daughters, Melissa Lovejoy of Belton and Mary Parker of West Pelzer; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Visitation was March 29 at Gray Mortuary, Pelzer.

HOWARD FOSTER, JR.

Howard Junior "Joe" Foster, 60, husband of Patricia Foster, of Piedmont, died Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at his home.

Born in Greenville, he was a son of the late Howard and Sudie Mullinax Foster. He was employed with Huskey Construction and a member of Trinity Baptist Tabernacle in Piedmont.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by children, Chris Foster and Gabe Foster, both of Piedmont, Mike Foster of Taylors; sisters, Barbara Southerland and Joyce Howard; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Visitation will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 30, at Gray Mortuary, Pelzer.

The funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, March 31, at Trinity Baptist Tabernacle. Burial will follow at Greenville Memorial Gardens.

The family members are at their respective homes.

Obituaries

Big Creek News

April Activities announced

By Gail Scott

As I walked out the door Sunday morning to go to church I smelled the fresh scent of the earth. The rain brought a pleasant smell. Only God can give rain.

Sunday morning brought renewing of my mind. Pastor Ron continued his sermon on the gospel in stained glass. The stained glass used was window number five. The title of the sermon was blessing the children. We all need to have a child like faith. Children are teachable. We need to teach them about Jesus. Read Mark 10:13-16 to learn where Pastor Ron got his message from. A window in the history of Big Creek is that on Sunday, April 6, 1895 the first Sunday school was organized at Big Creek. The auditorium in the old church was partitioned with curtains for classrooms.

The shut-in of the week was Lila Mae Pearson. Sunday evening Pastor Ron brought the message from Genesis 5 and Romans 5. He is still bringing messages from the gospel of Genesis. Sunday evening's message was the generations of Adam. Salvation is free.

In today's society everything costs. Everything comes with a price. Nothing is free. If I came to any of you and offered to pay for your groceries or pay your bills I am sure you would accept. Jesus paid for our salvation. It is a free gift. All we

have to do is accept Him.

In Pastor's Pals the children always learn a valuable lesson. Sunday Pastor Ron had a heavy black pack. It was like a burden or weight. We are to cast our burdens to the Lord. We are also to bear one another's burdens. The children helped Pastor Ron remove his burden or weight. They helped him cast it on the altar. We cannot bear our burdens alone. Cast all your cares to the Lord.

Pray for Charles and Judy Black, Mitchell Johnson, Ruth Freeman, Alan Black, Steve, Phillip and Betty Clardy, Steve Coker, Betty Knight, Trish Watson, Barbara Gregory, Lou McKee, Wilma Davenport, Sara Cooley, the family of Lydia Poore, our missionaries, our military, and our towns, and pray for the U.S.A. Pray for those who do not know Jesus.

Robert Smith and his friend went to the military ball. Julia and Ralph Blihar spent the weekend in Dillard, Georgia. Ruth Caldwell visited the mountains. Mallory McAbee enjoyed going out to eat with her sister. Mallory also enjoyed going to get her sisters prom dress with her mom and Adriana also to the movies to see Beauty and the Beast.

Places to be in April are as follows. April 14 there will be a Good Friday service and lunch will follow. April 15 an Easter egg hunt and hot dog dinner will be at 5 p.m. Adults

and children are invited. There will be prizes for both groups. Adults are to bring baskets. April 16 Easter Sunday will start with Sunday School and then Easter service. Everyone is invited to attend all functions. Come and receive a blessing.

People that know me know that I hate to cook. Each week I try to find an easy recipe to pass on to the newsletter readers. I collect cookbooks from everywhere. I especially love the crock pot recipes. I found a cookbook from Way Hills Baptist Church. I do not know where this church is, but I love this cookbook. I found a simple recipe for steak and gravy. 1 pound of round steak about 1 inch thick, 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup. Coat both sides of steak with soup. Pour the rest of the soup on top of steak. Fold foil and seal the edges. Bake at 350 for about 2 hours. You can also cook in a Crockpot on low for several hours until steak is done.

Our Shih Tzu is part of Big Creek. We received our church directory and her picture was in it sitting in my lap. She had a great Sunday. It was such a beautiful day she got to explore her own back yard.

Big Creek was glad to have visitors Sunday morning. Come visit us. Watch us on YouTube. Big Creek is a church of love. Jesus loved us and we should all pass His love to others.



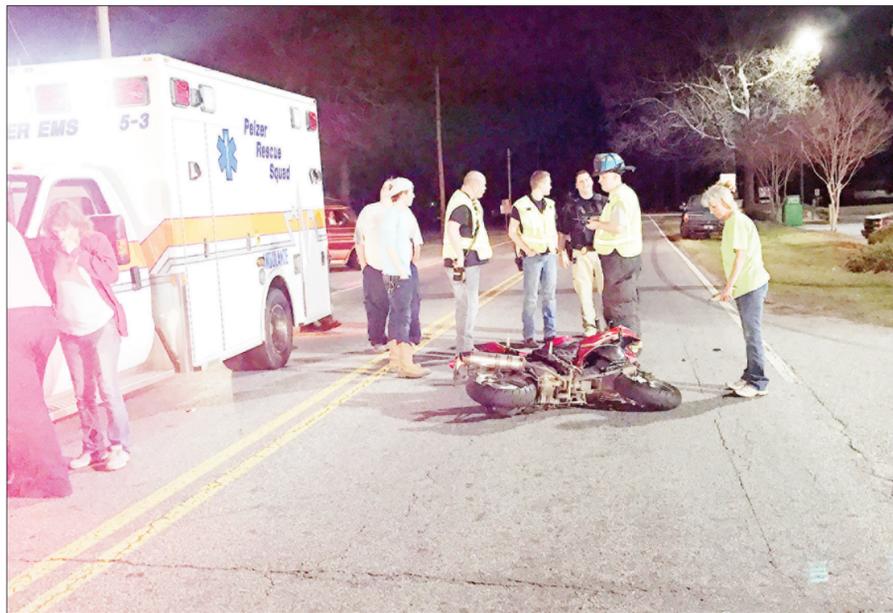
I-85 incident

Wren firefighters stand by along I-85 Monday night awaiting state troopers. More than five cars and a tractor trailer struck a drive shaft that was laying in the lane of travel. The vehicles lined the shoulder of the interstate just before the River Road interchange. Luckily no one was injured. (Photo by David Rogers)



Firefighters at Ferguson road

South Greenville firefighters along with Belmont firefighters work to extinguish a house fire Sunday night. When firefighters arrived at the home on Ferguson Road it was nearly engulfed in flames. Greenville EMS stood by as a precaution. (Photo by David Rogers)



Hit and run scene

West Pelzer firefighters along with Pelzer EMS work at the scene of a hit and run Monday night. Reportedly a pickup truck and moped collided on Highway 20 near Highway 8 and the truck left the scene. The driver of the moped was not seriously injured. (Photo by David Rogers)



Fire destroys home

A residential structure was destroyed by fire late Friday night on Osteen Hill Road. When firefighters from Wren, West Pelzer, and Piedmont arrived the home was fully engulfed in flames. No one was injured. Pelzer EMS stood by until firefighters had the fire under control. (Photo by David Rogers)

Beaverdam News

Church votes to restructure pastoral ministries

By Catherine Weaver
Officially, welcome to South Carolina's calendar spring-time. It is a fickle season of changing temperatures, spring rains, summer storms, March winds, and sometimes a little taste of winter time nipping at our toes. Every gardener knows to plant after April 15 and after Easter. Spring time is a lot like life, we never know what to expect. We should always be prepared. This is like our Christian walk. Since we do not know what to expect, preparation is everything. Our study life, prayer life, and Christian church and friends help us to face life's challenges when we need help. Happy spring to everyone! We arrived at church in the rain, and we left with blue skies. We came to church in the 5 PM hour in the sunshine, and it hailed while we were at choir practice. We left to go home in the sunshine.

Preacher Chris Huff, our senior pastor, chose "Faith in Action" as the title of his sermon. Preacher Chris, James Arcuri, and Brandon Couch sang our special, "Abba Father." Brandon played the guitar, and James played the piano. After the special Preacher Chris brought our message from Isaiah 51: 15-16. We were reminded that God wants to lead, guide, and direct us giving us divine inspiration and revelation. However, our faith in action is to testify that we are His! Testifying is an important part of our day to day walk. Preacher Brandon Couch brought our evening message entitled "Virtues in View of the Cross." His text came from John 18: 1-9.

After our Sunday morning message, we entered into a called business meeting for the purpose to vote on the restructuring of our pastoral ministries (full time and part time)

and the job duties assigned to each position. We voted to add a part time associate pastor of youth and pastoral ministries, and we elected a search committee to search for a full time associate pastor of missions, outreach and discipleship. We elected Missy Gardo, Brandee Lewis, Marsha Perrotte, Howard Stone, and Pat Holland. They will be searching for that special person to humbly meek God's will in equipping and leading Beaverdam to fulfill our God-given mission statement through missions, outreach, and discipleship. This person will help to plan in-state mission trips for all demographics of our congregation at least annually; help to plan out of state mission trips for various demographics groups within our congregation; help to plan international mission trips to be done as often as possible; help publicize and keep the

church informed about the other various mission opportunities that we have throughout the year. This associate pastor also needs to lead and equip Beaverdam in an intentional strategy of outreach to the local community where we can meet folks where they are and engage them with a Christian lifestyle in a sincere and caring way. The generation of a monthly bulletin to be used as a source which disseminates two months- worth of information and upcoming events at a time is also part of the job description. The associate pastor is to lead and to equip all leaders in areas of education and discipleship so as to help Beaverdam grow spiritually in our walk with Christ. The new associate pastor is also to assist our senior pastor in preaching God's Word in truth when called upon.

Please be in prayer for our search committee. We will step

out in faith for them to find us the person that can fulfill the job description. Somewhere is the perfect person to help Beaverdam fulfill God's purpose in our community. If you know of someone looking for a job, slip Beaverdam's name to the person and let that person do the rest. With God's help we will find the right person.

The beautiful flowers were placed in our sanctuary in

Memory of Jerry Reid by his loving parents, Lewis and Darlene, his sister, Nancy Gresham and nieces, Harley and Maddie Gresham. He was called home by his Father in Heaven five years ago.

Our Easter egg hunt is Saturday, April 15, from 1 to 3 PM. Come visit us soon. We are the community church where members become missionaries. See you soon.



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