

Horizons • 2022

A progress edition of The Clinton Chronicle

The People of Laurens County

Terry Baughn, part of 'everything,' retiring again

Photos: Terry & Rita Baughn @ Jan. 14 cookout



When people came by Carolina Auto Sales in Clinton and ask for "the owner," Bob McLean whose other job is the city's mayor just directed them to Terry Baughn. After all, Terry was the person they came to see – not Bob, who owns the business but most of the time is on the road buying cars.

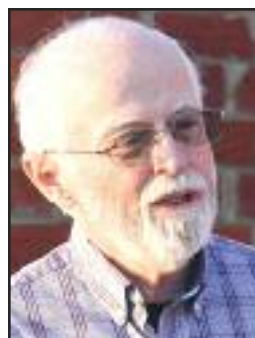
Standing beside a fired-up grill at Baughn's second retirement from the auto business on Hwy 72 in west Clinton, McLean said, "Everything here would not be here if not for Terry."

Carolina Auto Sales helps people who might have finance challenges with other lenders get into cars. These folks need the transportation for jobs, or just the basic mobile necessities of life. Along the way, they've created and nurtured a business that circulates \$400,000 - \$500,000 a year through the local economy.

"It didn't know it was that much," McLean said, "but Terry just kept writing checks to people who did work for us."

Baughn was working somewhere else when McLean approach someone he knew in Clinton about starting a business. McLean wanted the building next to the Clinton YMCA and finally it became vacant. McLean and retired Y Director Gene Simmons were striking the deal, when Baughn called out the blue five minutes later. He wanted to see if McLean would get him into the deal the other person was balking over. McLean said, "Sure. It was like Divine Intervention."

Eventually, the Y got into the childcare business in the building where the auto sales was located, and McLean came across a house and land, set way back off



the road, on Hwy 72 – at that time it looked "way out from town." Baughn wasn't really convinced – but they made a go of it. That was 16 years ago

Now, Baughn is starting a late in life venture as a traveling recreational vehicles repairman. He took a course in it, although he knows how to fix stuff and he definitely has the background in business. McLean says Terry Baughn is a behind the scenes mover who has had a role in shaping most of Clinton's signature businesses.

McLean hosted a cookout for Terry and Rita at Carolina Auto Sales on Jan. 14.

"I want to thank Terry as much as I can," McLean said. "There's no way to repay him for all he's done. I just can't do it."

McLean pointed out that Baughn worked for Ray Whiteford, that he drove a truck for HD Payne carrying fuel to and from Charleston, that he ran the Presbyterian College food service "when it was a pretty darn big business," that he worked for Patterson Ford in Laurens and Cooper Motors in Clinton.

Terry spent 15 1/2 years in the South Carolina National Guard and served in the State Guard. "He would leave work here and drive around Clinton as a volunteer police officer, and he was a volunteer firefighter," McLean said.

"He was president of PC for 5 minutes, at least George Bush thought he was."

It seems the former President was visiting Presbyterian College and Terry, wearing his PC blazer, was assigned to show him around. Bush asked, "What do you do here?" and Terry said, "I run this place."

George Bush responded, "Oh, you're the President," and Terry, who just couldn't contradict the Commander in Chief said, "I am."

"So, he led George Bush to think he was the President," McLean said.

Terry Baughn built the restaurant where Big Boys is today, and it was called Terry's when he built it, McLean said. "Terry has his footprint everywhere. I know he's going to keep busy or Rita's going to kill him, because Terry's work ethic is not going to allow him to go home and sit down. I want to say, 'thank you' for all he's done here."

McLean has some 'Terryisms' – if a car is worth \$500, it's worth \$700 – and if it goes to 7 it's worth 8; if you're going to make a mistake on a vehicle, make it on a truck.

One "Bob story" that Baughn can relate – at an auction in Anderson, there was this beautiful red diesel truck – "the prettiest truck I've ever seen," Terry says – but it was an old truck, 1995, '96, '97 – "I kept bidding. I kept doing my hand like this (small gesture). It got to \$13,000, then \$14,000 and Bob said, 'What fool bought that thing?' I said, 'You did.' We brought it home and sold it, I can tell you the man who bought it, he still has it."

But it went against everything the business was interested in -- "75% of the market buys less expensive vehicles," McLean said. "(Terry's) already retired on me once. I expect he'll be back in 3 weeks. OK, let's fire up those hamburgers and hot dogs."



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South Carolina 4-H Pageant

Over the past ten years, Laurens County 4-H has hosted the South Carolina Miss 4-H Pageant in Clinton. The pageant has seen over 300 entries of amazing and confident young women from across the state that share a love for 4-H.

This pageant is not just a beauty pageant. The contest had four divisions: business attire, 4-H project wear, formal attire, and onstage question. Two of these divisions are aimed directly at 4-H. The 4-H project wear division allowed the contestants to show off their 4-H project and their passion.

During the question division. Contestants were asked age-appropriate questions about 4-H and/or their 4-H experience. Each division winner received a 4-H trip scholarship to their choice of a Laurens County 4-H Day Camp, Junior Weekend, Senior Teen Weekend, or State 4-H Congress. The judges score the contestants on poise, stage presence, public speaking skills, personality, and confidence. The pageant is held annually in an effort to raise funds for Laurens County 4-H. All funds raised will go to support 4-H clubs, programs, and leadership opportunities in Laurens County 4-H. On

Saturday, February 5, 2022, Laurens County 4-H Volunteer Leaders and the Laurens County 4-H Teen Council once again held this exciting event. The pageant was held at Clinton High School with family members, friends, and 4-H supporters attending the event to cheer on the 14 outstanding contestants.

We would like to thank the local business who sponsored our event this year: Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission, Laurens County Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association, Laurens County Farm Bureau, PRTC, Morgan Hurley Lavender, Fatz Café Clinton, and Life in Color Floral Events.

Congratulations to our new Queens!

Little Miss Cloverbud: Caroline Stewart, Chester County 4-H Program

Little Miss Cloverleaf: Elizabeth Shaw, Laurens County 4-H Program

Miss Junior 4-H Teen: Brooklyn New, Laurens County 4-H Program

Miss 4-H Teen: Mya Chapman, Saluda County 4-H Program

Miss 4-H Queen: Olivia Lyda, Laurens County 4-H Program

-- Photo by Gary Mabry



Hogan Construction Group, LLC posted on Facebook: "Laurens County gives new life to a former vacant grocery store. The repurposed building will allow the relocation of Voter Registration and Veterans Affairs and will provide another 41,00 sq ft of shell space for future county needs. - Thomas & Hutton, Craig Gauden Davis, Laurens County Development Corporation, Board of Voter Registration & Elections of Laurens County"



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Introducing The Summit Scholars

Performing better than most schools in the state, Summit Classical School in Clinton recently staged its first full-school assembly in the theater of Florida Street School, now serving a church, adjoining its campus. That was a milestone in itself, but it also was the 100th day of the 2021-22 academic year, and it was a celebration time.

Officials from the school's sponsoring organization, the Charter Institute of Erskine, came by with a banner – and not just ANY banner. Summit was named a Gold Award school and the students cheered as they were told their school is the No. 4 performing school in all of South Carolina.

Christy Junkins, chief of authorization and accountability, said at Erskine, "We award schools who are performing well in math and ELA, the top 25%, and top 10% as well. This is a huge feat. Summit outperforms the local schools and outperforms the state. Education is important to the students, whether they stay in Clinton or they decide to venture outside of Clinton to be a protective citizen."

Junkins added that as a rural community, now Clinton has a way to attract new businesses and new families with good schools and more school options. "Good job, Clinton and Summit," she said.

Summit Principal Mary Greene Thomasson pointed out the very special day. "First, this is the 100th day of school, and we will have a fashion show this afternoon. Second, this is the very first time we have had a whole school assembly – an assembly is when people get together."

Richard Melzer, deputy superintendent authorization and accountability, told the assembly, "We are honoring you because you've done such an amazing job on some tests you took last year. Your school is in the top 25% in the state in math and reading and writing."

Cameron Runyan, superintendent and CEO, said, "Six years ago, I got a call from a member of the community who said can you meet us at a church – this church. I drove up here and spent about an hour with members of the community. Before some of you were born, there were people planning a school for you, a classical approach to education. This is a very special moment to be here; you have a lot of people to thank for your education. You are better than all your local schools in ELA and math – you're better than the average schools in South Carolina."

"You are the No. 4 performing school in the state and in the top 25% of all elementary schools in South Carolina – A Gold School. You have earned this because of the hard work you have done and your teachers have done."

Runyan said all staff at Summit would wear pins that say Gold School of Excellence.

Vamshi Rudrapatt, director, Charter Institute at Erskine, brought all teachers and staff to the front of the auditorium for the Gold Award. "The teachers show up at Summit every day and do what they do best. Mrs. Greene came during challenging times to lead you to where you are."

She told the students, "You know how much I love you." Isaac Martin, chairman of the

Summit board and also a member of the Army National Guard, said one of their ranks is NCO – "people that make things work; they're the backbone of the Army; teachers, you are the backbone. Without Mary Greene and the staff, we would not have Summit. Thank you every day for what you do. I see it every day with my two kids and the other parents see it, too." He said, "Erskine gives us an anchor. We want to go for Diamond. Keep the pace that we have and allow it to move us forward – and keep growing."

Summit's website explains its approach, "Classical education depends on a three-part process of training the mind, The early years of school are spent in absorbing facts, systemically laying the foundations for advanced study. In the middle grades, students learn to think through arguments. In the high school years, they learn to express themselves. This classical pattern is called the trivium." Enrollment is still open for 5K through 6th grade on a first-come, first-served basis, according to the website.

In an interview, Mary Greene Thomasson said at Summit, "We implement our curriculum, which is a classical curriculum, with fidelity. In addition to that, we try to focus on the individual needs of each student and meet them where they are and push them forward. The support we receive is phenomenal. I couldn't think of working with anyone else."

Summit Classical School, 600 East Florida St., Clinton; 864-547-2016; summitclassicalschool.com




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Kolman McMurphy

When asked what he's proudest of related to the Clinton High School Devil Regiment, band director Kolman McMurphy expands the question to fit his answer. For his dedication to his students, his craft, and music education in general, McMurphy is the Horizon Teacher of the Year.

"To your first question, it is really not only the Devil Regiment that I am most proud of, but the Clinton Band programs as a whole.

"This is the first year that we have had students in the high school band classes for a full year in my tenure at CHS. It is a testament to the leadership at Clinton High and our school district that we were able to establish a class schedule that allowed for continual music education for students at CHS.

"As for the marching band, the Devil Regiment worked hard from last May through band camp and into the competitive season to raise the bar with their performances on a daily basis. I am proud of our student leadership for setting the standard, and of our first year members for rising to the challenge of qualifying for State Finals. Bands in South Carolina are some of the best in the country, and I am proud to see Clinton Bands stepping into that legacy as we continue to find success in the various music ensembles and programs in the school district."

The 2022 District 56 Teacher of the Year, McMurphy points out, also, that the programs have seen individual success from the musi-

cians of Clinton High School and Clinton Middle School.

"Four high schoolers were nominated and accepted to the University of South Carolina Honor Band Clinic and Conductor's Symposium on Valentine's weekend - Nishyah Scott, Catelyn Caughman, Deven Bailey, and Rachel Vondergeest. Rachel was ranked as first chair horn out of all the attendees at the clinic of more than 300 students, and approximately 30 other horn players," he said.

"Additionally, Rachel and 8th-grader Richard Santiago both qualified for the All-State Honor Bands in South Carolina, after going through a rigorous, two-round, audition process. I am very proud of the effort and musical excellence put

forth by these students. They are representing our school and town with pride and integrity. Please continue supporting them as we move into the spring semester."

And, if you want to see music education in action (and much more)*"Please come out to Clinton High School on Saturday, March 5th to see the 4th Annual ArtsMix 56, featuring the Fine Arts Department of LCSD56," McMurphy said.

Kolman McMurphy has earned the B.M. Music Education - University of South Carolina; M.M. Music Education - Florida State University; class of 2022, and is Director of the Clinton High School Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Devil Regiment.

A native of Lexington, SC, McMurphy is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Education. He is currently earning his

Masters in Music Education from Florida State University and is in his fourth year of teaching at Clinton High School. While at USC, Kolman performed as a trumpet and euphonium major for the School of Music. Ensembles he has had the privilege to perform with include the USC Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Trumpet Ensemble, Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble, Swing Shift Jazz Band, and USC Men's Choir.

In 2015, Kolman spent time as a musician touring the United States as a member of Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps. His experience with these organizations is a major contributor to his educational philosophy of developing lifelong excellence through music education.

As an educator, McMurphy has worked with students across South Carolina.

Since coming to Clinton High School, the band program has or will perform publicly in competition and for sporting events, municipal events, school-wide rallies, and a number of upcoming public performances with the concert band and small ensemble performing groups. The CHS Wind Ensemble received a Superior Rating at the Music in the Parks Festival at Six Flags Over Atlanta in May of 2019.

Kolman is certified to teach AP Music Theory and Gifted and Talented Students. He is affiliated with SCBDA, Carolina Crown Alumni, SCMEA, LCSD56 and, currently, performs with the Carolina Wind Symphony. He loves writing songs with his wife, Hannah, and pairing a hot cup of coffee with a good book beside his cat named Pip.



"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world."
 — Harriet Tubman

The Laurens County Chamber of Commerce honored the Teachers of the Year, above; gave a tribute to Black History Month, above middle; and listed its officers and board members during the Feb. 10 Annual Meeting at Presbyterian College. Chamber membership is an important networking tool for businesses and individuals within the Laurens County community. Reach them through www.laurenscounty.org or 864-833-2716 (291 Professional Park Road, Clinton).

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Dina Hair

The Clinton Chronicle Horizon Citizen of the Year

By Pat and Vic MacDonald
For Horizon

From a shy tomboy to the directorships of two senior living communities serving the people of Laurens County, Dina Hair certainly has found her path in a career of helping others. She has never backed away from a challenge. Now facing her

greatest challenge ever, she is inspiring everyone with a courageous battle against ovarian cancer.

Her Facebook page is absolutely filled with inspiring messages. She encourages others with cancer and other problems. She believes prayer, a good support system, and a positive attitude are of utmost importance as

one walks through the trials of life.

Her longtime and devoted friend, Jody Whelchel, is supporting her through her journey. They are hiking and visiting some of North and South Carolina's most picturesque places and are providing a virtual travelogue with the message that, facing a challenge, you can either

sit with it, or walk it out.

For a career of serving, a current-day message of inspiration, and for telling us that cancer does not always have to be an insurmountable obstacle, Dina Hair is The Horizon 2022 Citizen of the year.

She grew up in Joanna with her parents, Bobby and Shirley Hair, and a block from her grandparents and great aunt and uncle. When she wasn't with her family, she was hanging-out with the high school boys playing sports and putting quarters in the pinball machine at Tucker's Store. Nearly every week, she was the kid with the highest score. Still today, she can't walk by a pinball machine without playing, at least, one game.

Dina says First Baptist Church, Joanna, gave her a good spiritual foundation and has supported throughout her life. When a new pastor came to the church in the seventies, his daughter, Joyce Mosteller Crouch, became the sister she never had. Buddy Bridges became their little brother. The three continue to be close nearly 45 years later.

Dina's family has faced serious challenges, too. Dina's three years younger brother, William Lance, lived only 6 days. Her mom faced a life-threatening illness. While the death and illness were hard, Dina's cancer diagnosis has been overwhelmingly difficult, but they are all facing it with a strong faith.

Dina went on to high school and joined the theater, but not as a performer. She worked behind the scenes – in fact, she won an "Academy Award" for makeup with the Clinton High School theater. She also served as a photographer for the yearbook. Her Aunt Ruth Hair Mitchell tried to teach her piano, but Dina preferred being outside.

Early on she knew she had a love for serving God and people – the orphanage, youth activities, missionary work, and ministering. Two



years at Piedmont Tech helped her grow up and mature and believe more in herself. She emerged as a top graduate, and her pastor convinced her to continue her education at Presbyterian College. She graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in Human Services and a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. In high school, she worked at Presbyterian Home dining room, 5 – 7 p.m. and rotating weekends, and found that she "loved serving seniors." She wore a pale yellow, 100 percent polyester uniform, and that was a driving force in her getting a college degree.

Her parents instilled in her a great work ethic, and in 1985 she became the first Director of Activities at Martha Franks Baptist Retirement Community. She stayed 10 years in that position and "loved every minute."

She was promoted to Director of Resident Services, supervising several different departments.

Anything non-medical, the residents went to see her. In the mist of that, she earned a Master's of Education degree in Counseling from Clemson University. She was working, with a lot

of responsibilities, and Dina admits "it was tough balancing work and school."

She turned down the Executive Director position at Martha Franks twice – Dina felt, at the time, she didn't know enough about finance. A finance director was hired, and Dina felt God was calling her to step out of her comfort zone. She directed the Martha Franks staff and facility from 2007 to 2013.


Dina was feeling like she needed a change when Executive Director Brandon Hair from Clinton Presbyterian Community, no kin to her, called her one day out of the blue.

She accepted the Director of Sales and Marketing position because she wanted the relationships and the connections with people. She stayed with it almost 7 years, working with a good staff and loving the residents and their families.

Her medical problems started as a mild to moderate stomach pain. She sought medical care during 2020, and received several different non-threatening diagnoses.

She decided to see a gastroenterologist but had received a "clean as a whistle" report following a

Dina Hair, 9




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THE HISTORIC CAPITOL THEATRE

WLBG: MAIN STREET LAURENS HELD THEIR CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEETING Friday, February 4, 2022

Last night, Main Street Laurens' held their Celebration and Annual Meeting, at Laurens County Museum's Magnolia Room.

There were refreshments from the Main Street Laurens supporting restaurants, and an update of successes from 2021, and a look at 2022!

Executive Director of Main Street Laurens Jonathan Irick's review of 2021, included the creation of 26 net new jobs, 3 full time and 23 part time, and 17 rehab projects both public and private.

Investments in the Main Street Area were, \$483,000.00 in private investments, \$398,950.00 in public investments, \$1,095,300.00 in properties sold, which came to \$1,977,250.00 in downtown investments.

There were 4 new businesses, and one expansion last year as well.

Irick also mention other accomplishments, such as being featured on a WYFF chronicle about downtown revitalization, extending the farmer's market to the fall season, and additional music as part of the arts and entertainment strategy.

There will be more new businesses planned for 2022. Future exciting events include "The Tailored Oak" Steakhouse will open its doors and be a destination restaurant for all!

Construction on the old Palmetto Bank building has been moving along smoothly and it will soon house a wonderful new event venue.

LCWSC Water Treatment Plant Project Posted on Sep 2, 2021 in GeneralInfo, News, Slider

In 2009, LCWSC hired a consultant to perform a water resources master plan. The master plan determined that current water resources are not sustainable for future growth.

LCWSC made the decision that a water treatment plant needed to be built capable of supplying our, at the time, 14,000 taps plus future growth.

Where would the water come from?

LCWSC evaluated all existing and potential water sources in Laurens County.

Lake Rabon, which is owned and operated by LCWSC, did not have enough long term capacity to serve the potential growth projected for Laurens County.

Lake Greenwood was the only viable alternative strategically located to meet future needs for LCWSC and Laurens County. Lake Greenwood is a well managed reservoir with a reliable and robust watershed.

Given the facts, LCWSC secured a 6 acre parcel for the intake site on the lake as well as a 32 acre parcel for the treatment facility in the area.

Working with a neighbor

Getting all the necessary permits to move the project forward was a long process. Typically this process can take up to 24 months to complete.

LCWSC entered into an agreement with Greenwood County for water withdrawal from the lake. This agreement included conditions proposed by FERC.

In November 2017 LCWSC received a Surface Water Withdrawal Permit from DHEC for 40 years!

System Improvements

Many water distribution system improvements will be needed.

As planning continued, many system improvements were needed to be able to supply water to LCWSC customers. Areas were identified that need larger water lines and a site for a new elevated water tank.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

On November 14, 2019 LCWSC held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Raw Water Intake on Lake Greenwood. This was a momentous occasion that meant construction was about to begin.

- LCWSC Commissioners
- LCWSC Employees

Construction Begins

There are three main categories to the construction of something as large as a water treatment plant.

1 – The raw water intake and pump station located on Lake Greenwood

2 – The plant that will treat and transform the raw water into potable water

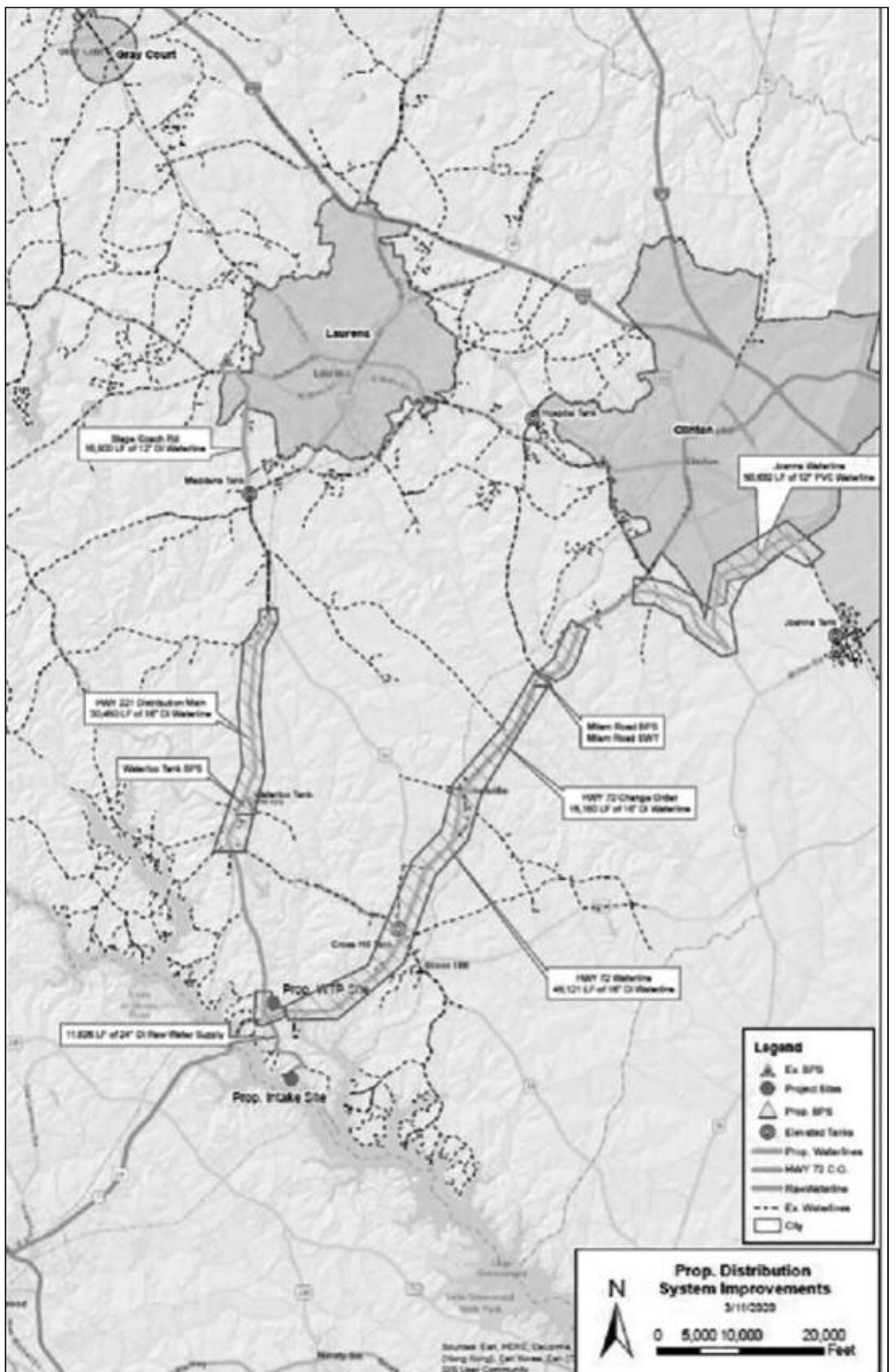
3 – The water distribution system of pipes needed to supply current and future demands

1 – The raw water intake construction is a massive challenge. This would require excavating tons of earth to allow for pipe and pump installation. A barge was needed to install the intake pipe out in the lake. Finally, the structure is being built on the property to house the pumps.

2 – The plant construction will include 40 acres of various components that will all work in harmony to create safe, clean drinking water for many years to come. This site will include ozone for disinfecting the water, treatment to remove unwanted materials from the lake water, an administration building where the laboratory will be located, two 750,000 gallon wet wells for finished water storage, along with other parts of the treatment processes.

3 – Many system improvements are needed since the source of water will be significantly changed hydraulically. You may have noticed some of the construction sites along major roadways throughout the county over the last several months.

- Installation



of a new 16” ductile iron pipeline on Stagecoach Rd, Hwy 76 and Raider Rd that will tie into the existing pump station located at Raider Rd

• Installation of a new 16” ductile iron pipeline on Hwy 221 from the plant site to new booster pump station located at the Waterloo water tank site

• Installation of a new 16” ductile iron and 12” PVC pipeline on Hwy 72, Greenplain Rd and Young Rd that will be used to supply the Town of Joanna.

- Installation

of a new 500,000 gallon water tank near the intersection of Hwy 72 and Milam Rd

As of 8/18/2020 over 80% of the installation of new pipelines have been completed as shown on the map below in yellow with the red hash marks.

9/25/2020 Loan Closing

Laurens County Water & Sewer Commissioners approved resolutions to close funding with USDA. This decision to close early will save the Commission over \$10 million

dollars in interest over the next 40 years.

Total Project Cost for all aspects of the new water treatment plant come to a total of \$54 million dollars.

\$42 million dollars financed through the USDA \$5 million dollars USDA grants \$3.6 million dollars EDA and RIA grants \$3 million dollars from LCWSC funds

Project Update August 2021

The last several months have seen a lot of con-

struction progress toward the completion of LCWSC’s Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility.

This project represents a tremendous investment in Laurens County and our future. This water treatment facility will ensure many generations to come will have an ample supply of safe, clean water. With the recent County growth and projected growth over the next 10+ years, the LCWSC Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility will be ready to meet our customers needs.

Dina Hair

From 8

colonoscopy five and a half years ago. During the colonoscopy in 2021, she was told that something was blocking the colon and she was sent for a scan and blood work.

On January 28, 2021, she got the “dreaded call” that there was a malignant tumor pressing on top of her colon, fluid was in the abdomen, which made the diagnosis worse, and she was being referred to an oncologist.

The tumor marker blood work for ovarian cancer came the following day and a normal range is 0 – 35, but her total was 9417. Dina said her first response was: “I’m dead!”

She was sent to a knowl-

edgeable gynecologic oncologist, Dr. Donald Wiper, in Greenville and went through an exploratory surgery, four chemos, another surgery to remove the female parts and the omentum, and three more chemos. She asked her Facebook friends for prayers, and the prayers flooded in.

After the first chemo, the tumor marker total went down 8,000 points, which is rare. “I chalk that up to answered prayers,” she says. After the second surgery, two abdominal wounds were not healing, but they finally healed with assistance from the Upstate Wound Center in Clinton.

Next came a cancer-inhibitor drug, and she contin-

ues to struggle with side-effects from it and the residual effects from chemo, but she has not lost sight of how blessed she is. She is considered to be in remission at this time, but understands that a relapse is a high possibility. She states, “I now value everyday and strive to live each day to the fullest.”

One thing she began doing – hiking, although Dina says she uses the word loosely. It is more like “bunny trails” of hiking. Still, it gives her exercise, a change of scenery, and social distancing.

She is sustained by the influence of her Christian family and friends, and her church. Aunt Ruth taught

her Proverbs 3:5&6 (she wears a verse bracelet) and she relies on her faith in God.

“I knew my world would get smaller with a cancer diagnosis, and I asked God to use me for His glory,” Dina says. She sensed God leading her to post her cancer journey on Facebook to inspire and encourage others. She tries to share something she learns daily.

Now people call her and ask her to talk with their relatives with a new cancer diagnosis, while other reach out and ask her to pray.

There is no way, she says, she could ever thank everyone enough for their prayers, love, and support. Many people in Clinton, Laurens,

and beyond have reached out to her. Among the first to reach out was the caring people at Laurens County Cancer Association, saying “we want to serve you.”

“This is a much needed organization for the county,” Dina says.

She adds, “I couldn’t have made it through this journey without my parents and friends. My parents have not left my side.”

During Dina’s 36 year stellar career she has received accolades for her service: Outstanding Young Women of America, Piedmont Technical College’s Distinguished Alumni, Presbyterian College’s Outstanding Young Alumnae, the

House and Senate for her work with seniors and veterans, and the Miss Martha Franks Mission Award.

Looking back, she appreciates the recognition, but her “greatest blessings are the lives she has been able to touch and difference she has been able to make for seniors and others,” she says.

When asked what other thoughts she would like to share, she said, “As I have walked this cancer journey, I have experienced first hand that God is unfolding His perfect plan in my life, His promises are true, and His ‘grace is sufficient.’ God gives me hope for tomorrow and my desire is that He will find me faithful through it all.”

PC Trustee Robin Boren shares heart-felt, personal take on business ethics during annual Vance Lecture

Presbyterian College alumna Robin Boren '97 shared her personal experiences navigating the ethical dilemmas of doing business at the 2022 Robert M. Vance Lecture on Business Ethics held Jan. 25.

Boren, the senior vice president of finance and treasurer of Southern Company and a member of the PC Board of Trustees, said she researched the late Vance and discovered that the Clinton banker and textile magnate lived by the same principles she values – ethics, honesty, and integrity.

"These were things he lived by," she said. "And he believed these were very important qualities as a business leader. Ethics are part of our personal journey – what we've been through in our lives and how it impacts how we live our lives. I know that is the case for me."

Ethics was one of the greatest lessons Boren learned at PC.

"The fact that we have an honor code – that it is real and it is important," she said. "It's not just something we put on our website or, in my day, the glossy brochure you picked up at the administration building. It's real. As a student, you have an obligation to uphold the honor code – if for no other reason than so future generations can also have the honor code. I know I felt that obligation when I was here as a student, and I'm sure you do, as well."

Ethics and honor also are in-

herent in the college's motto, "While We Live, We Serve," Boren said. The same holds true of the Presbyterian Church's principles of stewardship, service, honesty, dignity, and respect that come from scripture.

"This institution values those things, as well," she said. "It embodies them. So, PC left its mark on me as I think about ethics and my commitment to ethics and the way I look at ethics – no question about it. And it has been a good mark at that. A good foundation for me."

During the late 1990s, PC professors began letting their students take final exams outside of the standard class period without being proctored.

As she took the very last final exam of her undergraduate career – alone in a Harrington-Peachtree Center classroom – Boren said she came up against a question she could not answer and ultimately chose not to look at her notes.

"As ethical dilemmas go, it was not that big," she said. "But what I've come to realize is that while PC gave me a great foundation on ethics, not every ethical dilemma is as black and white as cheating. There's a lot of gray out there, and navigating that gray in the face of chaos and strife and stress in the business world is not nearly as easy as I thought it was going to be. I've had to learn some painful lessons, as a matter of fact. Along the way, I've learned to navigate

the gray, trust my gut, and surround myself with people who share my view on ethics."

Early in her professional career, Boren said she created a model for two financing options for a client, including one her employer wanted to sell. However, her numbers suggested the client should choose the "vanilla" option. When she presented her estimates to her supervisor, he reconfigured her assumptions and led to a different conclusion more favorable to her employer.

"Was that ethical?" she said. "Were his assumptions better than my assumptions? He certainly had more experience than I had. He was my boss. He had to go pitch the product to the client. I just ran the numbers. What would you do? I did nothing. That day has sat with me for 25 years. It really taught me about the kind of people I want to surround myself within the business world."

Later, at a different company, Boren said she had to give a client bad news about potential investors and learned a valuable lesson on being more transparent. But even in failure, there was room to grow and establish personal ethical standards.

"I'm a big fan of failure stories," she said. "It is from our failures that we learn so much. Those experiences early on in my career really shaped for me the kind of leader I wanted to be and the people I wanted to sur-

round myself with and even the kind of company I wanted to work for."

At Southern Company, Boren said she works with and for people who share her values. Even when employees on her team have been laid off, she said the company found ways to help them, and she has made it her goal to be completely transparent and keep them informed.

"I have an obligation as their leader to tell them what's going on," she said. "If you trust your leader is being honest with you – one, you can reduce their fear and anxiety and, two, they would know to make the best decisions for themselves and their family."

What ethics comes down to is people, said Boren. Whether clients, investors, or employees, everyone deserves transparency, honesty, and empathy.

"I had a boss who said, if I lose my job, I can always go out and get another one," Boren said. "But if I lose my reputation, I'm toast. I have lots of experience and skills I can use in another role. But if I don't have my integrity, no one will hire me."

Boren told students that PC gives them a great foundation to live and work ethically.

"Learn from your ethical misjudgments and use them to make better decisions as you go forward on your journey," she said.

"The fact that we have an honor code – that it is real and it is important," she said. "It's not just something we put on our website or, in my day, the glossy brochure you picked up at the administration building. It's real. As a student, you have an obligation to uphold the honor code – if for no other reason than so future generations can also have the honor code. I know I felt that obligation when I was here as a student, and I'm sure you do, as well." --- Robin Boren



PC Athletics Goal: \$8 Million new facilities

Presbyterian College launched the public phase of an \$8 million philanthropic initiative to improve athletics facilities during a Lettermen's Day event on campus Jan. 29.

The Championship Spirit: Building on a Proud Legacy campaign is one of the most significant fundraising initiatives for facilities in the college's history. The college's goal is to have the \$8 million raised by June 30, in time for the target date to get construction and renovations underway this fall.

The centerpiece of the project is a multipurpose facility for PC's newest sports – men's and women's wrestling, competitive cheer, and acrobatics and tumbling. In addition to practice and training sites for those sports, the building will also house coaches' offices and locker rooms.

Acrobatics and tumbling coach Amber Morrell said PC's newest sports have been practicing off-campus for several years and will significantly benefit from having their dedicated facility.

"These young people are going to have their own space, and we'll have our own locker rooms and coaches' offices," she said. "A safe place to practice and train and, more importantly, it's going to be on campus. It's really going to feel like home."

New seating, a press box, lights, coaches' offices, and locker rooms will substantially improve the Blue Hose softball field.

Head coach David Williams said the proposed improvements are summed up with one word.

"Opportunity," he said. "An opportunity for us to provide a better student-athlete experience. An opportunity to provide a better game day experience for our fans. An opportunity for past, present, and future players to see the development of our program and institution. One particular opportunity I'm very excited about is our ability to host the Big South championship in 2025 – an opportunity we otherwise would not have without the enhancements we're receiving."

The Templeton Physical Education Center gymnasium, home court to men's and women's basketball and volleyball, will benefit from new bleachers, new video boards, and an HVAC system. Competitive cheer coach Shana Spann said air conditioning is a noticeable improvement, but the video board will engage fans and sponsors to a greater degree.

Fresh off its 2021 Big South Championship and PC's first national tournament appearance, baseball, in addition to the lights that were added last fall, will add a new press box, bleachers, restrooms, concessions, and a field house for coaches' offices and locker rooms.

Head coach Elton Pollock '95 said improvements to the PC Baseball Complex will be "game-changing."

"It will absolutely change the game and our ability to recruit and

Top-Quality Graduate Healthcare Programs

Right Here at Home

PC's three graduate healthcare programs continue the college's culture of service and exceptional education that began in Clinton nearly 150 years ago.

Pharmacy

This year is the second consecutive year that PC School of Pharmacy graduates have posted the highest pass rate on pharmacy licensure exams in South Carolina.

Physician Assistant

The PA Studies Program develops within the framework of the Christian faith the medical, mental, moral, physical, and spiritual capacities of each student.

Occupational Therapy

The newest graduate healthcare program, the Occupational Therapy Doctoral Program, continues the rich tradition of preparing students to become servant leaders as they meet the needs of the community.

For more about PC's graduate healthcare programs, visit www.presby.edu

Former Sen. Floyd Nicholson delivers poignant and personal address on civil rights history in the United States

Presbyterian College launched its celebration of Black History Month with a story told not only by someone with knowledge about the Civil Rights Movement during the 1960s but also someone who experienced it.

Former S.C. Sen. Floyd Nicholson's address during the college's annual Dr. Booker T. Ingram Jr. Convocation and Lecture was a personal account of what it was like growing up black in the South during the tumultuous 1960s and some of the biggest events that shaped U.S.

history. Nicholson said his father died when he was only six years old and his mother, who had no formal education, was a domestic worker who moved the family often to live wherever she could afford rent. He grew up going to segregated schools the U.S. Supreme Court declared "separate but equal."

"Part of that was right," he said. "The separate part. The equal was not right. There was no equality. We would go to places where, on one side, it said 'whites only' and the other side

said 'colored.' You looked on the white side, it was all immaculate. It was set up nice. You go to the other side, the colored section was run down. They didn't keep it up or anything."

In school, Nicholson said he discovered the textbooks he and his classmates read were used and passed down from white only schools.

But there were two years in the 1960s – 1963 and 1968 – that illustrated how turbulent that era was in the United States.

In 1963, Nicholson said, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

lead a march in Washington in support of black and poor people. There was hope, he said. But it was dashed by the news of the Ku Klux Klan bombing the 16th Street Baptist Church killing four black girls. Hope also took a blow when U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. And then there was Alabama Gov. George Wallace's "segregation then, segregation now, segregation forever" speech to prevent black students from attending the University of Alabama.

"But, you know what?" her

said. "Everything changes. Before he died, (Wallace) retracted those words. He admitted he was wrong. But I remember at the time fearing for those students. Going to school with guards. Being spit on. Kicked. But they endured."

Five years later, the country again was gripped racial tension, an unpopular foreign war, and violence, Nicholson said. The first event in 1968 was personal and involved Nicholson as a freshman on the campus of S.C. State University in Orangeburg.

A few S.C. State students tried to enter a "whites only" bowling alley across the street from campus and were turned away by its owner. The next night, a larger group of 200-300 students returned but were forced back onto campus by the police. The State Law Enforcement Division and the S.C. Highway Patrol surrounded S.C. State to make sure students were not able to leave campus. While students continued to protest at the front of the university, officers began firing – killing three young men and injuring dozens of others.

"(Police) said 'we heard gunfire,'" Nicholson said. "Nobody had a gun. Nobody fired anything. I remember running and crawling on the ground."

Nicholson said he remembers thinking about the number of black men fighting in Vietnam.

"I thought, wow, you don't have to go to Vietnam to dodge bullets," he said. "You can dodge them right here at home. There were blacks being sent to Vietnam to fight in a war for our country and we're not even considered full citizens."

All of that pain and suffering, he said, "over a bowling alley."

Nicholson contrasted the public response over the Orangeburg Massacre with the killing of students at Kent State University in 1970.

"Everybody knew about (Kent State)," he said. "Orangeburg Massacre? Very little. You reckon it might have been because those were just black students down there at that little black school? 'These are white students; we've got to let the world know.' Wonder why the difference? I can't say. No one can say."

On April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis. In June, presidential candidate and brother of JFK, Robert Kennedy, also was killed. In October, at the Mexico Olympics, John Carlos and Tommie Smith stood on the medal stand after placing first and second in the 220-yard dash and defiantly raised their fists in a "black power" salute.

Nicholson admits he held on



for a long time to the anger he felt over the Orangeburg Massacre, even after he began teaching and coaching.

"I came to the realization – I don't care how upset you are about the massacre, it's not going to change anything that happened," he said. "What you need to do is get involved in the community to try and make a difference."

And so, he did, running first and getting elected to Greenwood City Council in 1982.

"I had a lot of encouragement," Nicholson said. "A lot of people said 'you can't do it' and that was my encouragement."

Nicholson served 11 years on council and later ran a successful campaign to become Greenwood's first black mayor. In 2008, despite living in a district that is mostly Republican and mostly black, the Democrat defied the odds and served three terms as a senator in the S.C. General Assembly.

Nicholson said a lot has changed in the U.S. but there still work to be done. When he became mayor, he said, a reporter asked him how it felt to be the city's first black mayor. But Nicholson said he wanted to be remembered as the first mayor who "happened to be black" and asked that he be measured against all mayors – not just black mayors.

"That's what the fight has always been about," he said. "Equality. Opportunity. Having an opportunity to pursue the same things in life that everybody else would like to have."

Nicholson said he hopes people will focus more on the words to the Pledge of Allegiance than whether or not people stand for the National Anthem. The Pledge, he reminded, ends with the phrase "liberty and justice for all."

"We're not at that point yet," he said. "We're not at the point where we have liberty and justice for all. It's liberty and justice for some but hopefully we will get to the point where there is liberty and justice for all."

UofSC Announces iCarolina Learning Lab at UofSC Union

COLUMBIA – The University of South Carolina has announced that the Palmetto College iCarolina Community Learning Lab at UofSC Union opened to the public on Friday, February 25.

The computer lab, located in the Union County Carnegie Library at 300 East South Street, is one of eight labs opening throughout South Carolina and provides underserved communities with access to high-speed broadband internet.

"I am pleased that these labs are coming online at a time when basic access to broadband internet plays an essential role increasing opportunities for our rural students and communities," said Governor Henry McMaster. "With more labs in the network opening in the coming months, we're placing resources in the hands of our communities and people, allowing them to participate in our state's growing

economy."

In March 2021, Governor McMaster awarded \$6 million of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to the University of South Carolina, who, in partnership with Benedict College, will establish eight Apple computer labs statewide. The network will include hubs in Columbia's Bull Street District and at Benedict College, along with satellite labs at six of UofSC's Palmetto College regional campuses. UofSC Palmetto College campuses are all located within 15 miles or less of a broadband desert, according to the South Carolina Broadband Map, providing reliable technology and internet access to these communities.

"We are delighted to open the first Palmetto College iCarolina Learning Lab at UofSC Union," said Dr. Susan Elkins, Palmetto College Chancellor. "This technology investment in our cam-

pus and communities opens the door for so many South Carolinians to gain skills and certifications that will enable them to grow both academically and professionally. Thank you to Governor McMaster for his leadership and vision to create this tremendous opportunity for our community. Also, thanks to USC Union Dean Randy Lowell and the USC Union team, along with the Ms. Taylor Atkinson, Director of the Carnegie Library and the Carnegie Library team, for this excellent partnership that will serve Union and the surrounding communities."

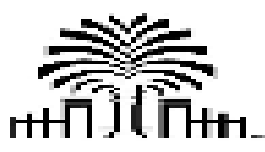
The labs have been strategically located for use by our UofSC Palmetto College regional campuses, local school districts. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the South Carolina Technical College System and citizens in the community. Each site will provide Apple products and ed-

ucational programming to faculty, staff, students, and the community at no cost to the user. "USC Union is pleased to be the site of the first lab to open across the state," said Dr. Randy Lowell, Dean at USC Union. "We are very excited to serve with community with our outstanding partners at the Union County Carnegie Library."

"As the state's flagship institution, the University of South Carolina is leading many efforts to educate and train the workforce of the future," said Bill Kirkland, Executive Director of the UofSC Office of Economic Engagement. "In the modern economy, we know that the state needs more highly skilled workers in specialized fields than ever before. Initiatives like the iCarolina network will help fill the gap between K-12, two-year colleges, and higher education for the benefit of our entire statewide community."

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PC Athletics

From 10A

continue to recruit quality men and women," he said. "I believe that this process and place produce men and women like no other." PC president Dr. Matthew vandenBerg told the PC Lettermen crowd that the college's championship spirit – "audacious, relentless enthusiasm and confidence" – is the key to victory.

"As PC lettermen, you don't need me to tell you anything about what it means to be a champion," he said. "As a group, you've shown your championship spirit over and over again throughout the generations. We've had legendary coaches, exceptional athletes, epic wins, undefeated seasons, division titles. Student-athletes have been among the best and the brightest scholars and our most engaged and successful alumni. Athletics has literally been an irreplaceable part of the PC student experience for almost as long as we've been around. That same championship culture you built hasn't left this place. It's alive and well."

PC supporters have already displayed the "Championship Spirit," with some of the most considerable gifts in its Division I history, totaling \$6.29 million. Steering committee chair Thomas Free '91 was singled out for his \$1 million gift, the campaign's largest thus far, as was one of the initiative's first donors, former softball player Tina Bolden '05.

Free said he was eager for the opportunity to get off the sidelines and into the game.

"These new and revitalized facilities will give our student-athletes the training facilities they need – they deserve – to maximize their performance," he said. "We all know that athletics plays a significant role in the success of an institution, not only for athletes but non-athletes, as well. Athletics provides a sense of pride among our student body and our alumni. It allows us to achieve and sustain a sense of community that PC is known for."

Alumni Brad and Mary Spearman both challenged their fellow PC graduates to join the effort to improve their alma mater's athletics facilities.

"Student-athletes are making PC better, and it is time for us to make PC better for them," said Mary '84.

Brad Spearman said PC's coaches also deserve the proposed improvements.

"I can't think of a greater calling," he said. "Our coaches need these facilities to be able to recruit and retain the highest quality student-athletes. We have the opportunity in front of us and the power to make that difference in the lives of young people now and in the future. We're all a part of PC's legacy. Every one of us. It's our chance now to build on that legacy."

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Thornwell Charter School: A Platinum Award Winner

A plan 6 years in the making has brought about a reactivated school at Thornwell, a residential facility with a long and storied history in Clinton. Thornwell Charter School is a Platinum Award winning school for its top 25% performance by the middle school on standardized testing from last year.

Most recently, the school received Charter Institute at Erskine permission to expand its high school. Enrollment applications for all grades were due Feb. 18, and applications received after that are waitlisted.

"We had a burden and a heart to bring education to rural communities," Cameron Runyan, Superintendent CEO, said following the Platinum Award ceremony in the Gillum Center for Performing Arts. "Norman Dover and I met early on. We had a chance to collaborate on a great school for this community and a shining star for South Carolina. We are very, very proud of them."

Dover is the educational vice-president at Thornwell and a veteran Clinton educator.

One thing the staff at Thornwell Charter is mindful of is legacy. This school basically reactivates the closed Thornwell High School, which enjoyed a stellar reputation among South Carolina private schools. "It continues a legacy," Runyan said. "What a neat thing to come to such a historic campus. What a great story, coming together for Clinton in one of its historical gems. We're so honored to be part of this community."

At the award ceremony, all middle school students were asked stand up, and the students were told, "They're our honorees today." For a Gold Award, a school has to be in the top 25% of Math or ELA scores. The top 25% in BOTH math and ELA gets the next highest award, the Platinum Award. Thornwell Charter also scored in the top 25 in Science.

Then, elementary students were asked to stand up, turn and face the middle school folks and



give them a big round of applause. The challenge presented to the elementary students is this - it would be possible to win two banners, one middle and one elementary. The middle school is eligible for one more level up, the Diamond Award earned by just three schools in the state for being in the 90% scores on tests.

"We are so proud of what you have accomplished," Runyan told the students. "It doesn't happen by accident. Your teachers work hard, and you work hard. Five years ago, there were people were working to bring a school to this community. We are proud of the students - proud of what you have accomplished, we are proud of Laurens County, and proud of South Carolina. Set your goal for next year. If you work really hard, we will be back here next year and celebrate; congratulations on being a Charter Institute at Erskine Platinum School."

"This is a big moment," Dover said. "Behind you is an army of people who have made this happen - 22 people formed a committee, and there are those who have offered support financially and with their energy. You have a principal who loves this school. She is tenacious and she gives her energy. Thirty-eight years I have been in this business and this is the strongest unified group of faculty and staff that I've seen together. We have parents who support you,

to get you ready for school. I hope you have a heart of thankfulness for what has happened to you; and you dream about what your life can be, what this school can be, and what you can do adopt a growth mindset to help you be the best student and person you can be."

Thornwell Charter Principal Melissa Moore said, "We overcame Covid yet here we sit today to celebrate our accomplishment - how? We all showed up, we all worked together as a family - one team, one dream, one legacy. A legacy of those who came before us."

"Success is a journey not a destination and that could not be more true here at Thornwell as we work every day as one team, one dream, one legacy. I want to thank Norman Dover; he is a wonderful leader. I want to thank him for mentoring me. Thank you to our staff, you have helped each other through obstacles we never thought we would have to go through. Our parents, they are always here for us - they show up at everything we have."

Moore reminded the students, "You are the reason we get up and come to work every morning; you are all part of our success and may be continue to have more success." Thornwell Charter School, 203 West Calhoun St., Clinton; 864-808-0801 ; www.thornwellcharterschool.org



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