



HORIZONS 2024

A progress edition of *The Clinton Chronicle*



FEBRUARY 28TH, 2024

ZF & The Future

“with cutting edge innovation, like PowerLine”

Investing in America: ZF Launches US Production of PowerLine Commercial Vehicle Transmissions

- Newly implemented US production line is part of a \$200 million investment to supply three major US commercial vehicle manufacturers
- PowerLine’s modular design is prepared for mild hybrid and plug-in hybrid variants bridging the future to electrified commercial vehicles
- Pairs commercial vehicle rugged duty performance with passenger car-type shifts and helps improve fuel economy and vehicle acceleration*
- Gray Court announced as ZF’s first North American flex manufacturing facility, producing both conventional and electrified driveline technologies for commercial vehicle and passenger car customers

GRAY COURT, South Carolina – ZF announced that the first PowerLine 8-speed automatic transmissions rolled off the production line in late 2023 at its Gray Court, South Carolina, manufacturing facility. As part of a \$200 million investment announced in 2021, ZF is now ramping up production to 200,000 transmissions per year by 2025 to satisfy demand from US commercial vehicle manufacturers, including three US-based customers.

“ZF is a partner of choice for the North American Commercial Vehicle industry. With cutting-edge innovations, like PowerLine, we position ourselves as the leading supplier in North America, a market of extraordinary importance to us and where we hold a great market position for ZF Commercial Vehicle Solutions,” said Prof. Dr. Peter Laier, Member of the ZF Board of Management with global responsibility for the Commercial Vehicle Solutions Division. “With its modular design, PowerLine can offer mild hybrid and plug-in hybrid variants, making it a true technology bridge to future mobility and bringing advancements to the important commercial vehicle market, one of the workhorses of the global economy. Even more important is now we are closer to the customer than ever before. Manufacturing in North America for North America is of great importance to ZF and our customers.”

ZF PowerLine, designed for class 5 commercial vehicles to class 8 trucks, utilizes ZF’s patented 8-speed gear layout, with gear ratios ideally stepped to deliver increased torque at launch and higher top gear for improved fuel economy. These gear ranges utilize intelligent software to help further improve



STAFF

Chris Patterson ... General Manager/Design/Sales

Vic MacDonald ... Editor/Photography/Design

Pat MacDonald ... Scheduler/Proofreading

Ally Padgett ... Bookkeeping & Office/Sales

Jamie Bishop, Johnny Jacks ... Distribution

Printed at Edwards Printing, Westminster

Support by Smith Newspapers Inc.

Cover Photos Rep. Jeff Duncan & LCCT Disney’s

The Little Mermaid production in Clinton

Back Photo at Clinton High School, Hwy 72

Some photos from Facebook & other sources



shift quality, safety, acceleration, and overall performance.

“PowerLine solidifies Gray Court’s position as ZF’s first North American flex manufacturing facility: we produce conventional and electrified propulsion technologies for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles,” said Prof. Dr. Laier. “Furthermore, with today’s launch, ZF can now provide our North American customers with a highly efficient, high performance transmission that will help commercial vehicle manufacturers and fleets meet tough CO2 targets while providing excellent total cost of ownership and reliability.”

PowerLine transmissions began rolling off the Gray Court production lines in Q4 of 2023, and will ramp up quickly with a capacity of more than 200,000 transmissions by 2025. Nearly 50,000-square-feet of ZF’s Gray Court facility is now dedicated to PowerLine production for the North American commercial vehicle customer base.

In specific applications, PowerLine offers fuel savings of up to 10 percent and may promote enhanced acceleration performance compared to transmissions in this vehicle class. Vehicle safety is as always of utmost importance and ZF PowerLine is loaded with features including, Autopark, to help ensure the park lock is engaged even if the driver forgets to select the park position or set the parking brake; Hill Hold, to help prevent rollback when launching from a stop on an incline; and Shift-by-Wire, with integrated stalk shift selector enhancing ergonomics and improving maneuverability.

The 1,687,000-square-foot Gray Court, South Carolina manufacturing facility is the first in the U.S. to produce the PowerLine transmission. To support the launch, the Gray Court site is currently seeking new team members dedicated to PowerLine. To explore possibilities visit: zf.com/GrayCourt

About ZF

ZF is a global technology company supplying systems for passenger cars, commercial vehicles and industrial technology, enabling the next generation of mobility. ZF allows vehicles to see, think and act. In the four technology domains of Vehicle Motion Control, Integrated Safety, Automated Driving, and Electric Mobility, ZF offers comprehensive product and software solutions for established vehicle manufacturers and newly emerging transport and mobility service providers. ZF electrifies a wide range of vehicle types. With its products, the company contributes to reducing emissions, protecting the climate and enhancing safe mobility. -- From ZF

Powering the Future

“Thinking of possibilities is like driving a car on a freeway. You have an open road that stretches endlessly before you where your thoughts are not shackled. But when we say ‘impossible,’ we have already reached a dead-end in our minds. So dwell on possibilities to open up your horizon.” Pankaj Patel

Charles Brewington

Citizen of the Year - The Open Door

It used to be that a ride by the Open Door Ministry near Uptown Clinton would illicit the thought, “What is that place?”

If you are a newcomer, you would know that it has been there literally forever – that it serves what some people would describe as “the least of these” and, if we are being truly honest, would look down their nose at the clients. You would see the words “soup kitchen” and immediately have an image in your mind. You would see that there’s a bunch of cardboard, kind of shabby stuff that us “real citizens” have thrown away.

Kind of like the people who live and work here. They have immersed themselves in drugs and addiction, so they deserve to be thrown away (in some minds).

But, face it, that’s not what The Bible says.

For 24 years this April, Charles Brewington has lived and worked in this world, thankless work except for the times he baptizes his clients in the warm waters of the Clinton YMCA’s indoor pool. Except for the time he’s on a river bank catching catfish that he brings to Geraldine’s Kitchen, and word goes out all over Clinton, “Catfish on the menu today.” Except for those Open Door graduation ceremonies (find them online).

For all those “excepts” – and many more that The Lord knows – Charles Brewington is Horizons’ 2024 Citizen of the Year.

“The building looks great,” Brewington (back row, center, photo above) unashamedly brags during a recent interview. For any of you who know Charles, you are not going to be surprised that the credit goes somewhere else. “The men did the work.”

In fact, Brewington was not looking forward to the Open Door’s three month’s ago graduation – he lost some of the hardest working clients he and the ministry have ever seen. “They just did the last of the sprucing up. They saved us money. We had a quote of \$30,000 but doing the work



themselves they saved us \$23,000. We had a lot of donors, and we paid for it as we went. It is a true blessing here.”

Sherwin Williams in Laurens allowed them to have a non-profit discount. Charles said his wife Melinda gets the credit for the financials – “she runs everything in here.”

Inside there is all LED lighting which cuts down on electricity expenses. Brewington is proud, now, to offer the chapel to pastors who want to have an out-of-their-church gathering. Geraldine’s Kitchen recently hosted a churches-sponsored Saturday feeding for the community, promoted by Clinton City Council Member Anita Williams.

“It was full. They want to do it

again.”

At other times, Geraldine’s Kitchen is the feeding site for the clients’ three meals and, from noon to 2 p.m., offers lunch to anyone else who comes in – “we feed our guys, then the public.” During recent cold weather (low temperatures in the teens) the ministry’s chapel was open for the homeless, but Brewington said no one came in for warmth; still, they are committed to working with the city to address local homelessness.

About the ministry’s new exterior look, Brewington says, “Three months ago, we graduated the ones who mostly worked on it. Three (current) guys finished the back; one took on the back shop – the wood was warped

out so he took off the walls, put in new studs and walls, then painted.” The shop houses cardboard recycling and Clinton Tire donates old steel rotors that are sold to M&M, and the money goes to the ministry.

The clients are busy all week, working 5 days a week with Saturday for visits and Sunday for visits after church – “they never quit” – and if there is any downtime, they’re playing cornhole.

“The progression of the ministry has been amazing. It’s all God, every bit of it,” Brewington said. “Looking back, with a volunteer staff, God’s hand is involved in everything.”

The ministry thrives on donations – Amick Farms was supplying 200

Turn every job into a job well done.



The New MX Series

55.5-63.4 HP

Factory cab available



WILSON TRACTOR, INC.

440 Wilson Road
Newberry, South Carolina 29108
(803) 276-1151

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

**THANKS TO OUR
LOYAL CUSTOMERS
AND THE LAURENS
COUNTY COMMUNITY!**

Citizen of the Year

pounds of chicken a month, so much that Open Door couldn't use it all in a timely manner so less was requested – that has been going on since 2012. The community responds every time the ministry's canned food cupboard gets low. Clinton High School's cross-country student-athletes get a lesson in community service when they collect canned food and run the donations along Springdale Drive and East Carolina Avenue to Open Door as one of their practice runs. At the risk of leaving someone out, Brewington says Harry Agnew, NHC, Richloom and cardiologists at Laurens County Hospital have been faithful supporters, along with the ministry's Board of Directors. Several years ago, when ZF Transmissions Gray Court revamped their cafeteria, they donated so many plates and aluminum lids that the ministry is still using them for cooked meals sent out into the community.

That's not to say everything just rocks along without a hitch. Brewington says, "During COVID, we knew we could help each other. We were doing produce (sales) and when it started, we took bags to people with Covid to give them nutrients. We stopped serving in-house meals for 5 weeks. In one month, we sent more meals out the door than we had in-house the month before – we



**"We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction that there is a better life, a better world, beyond the horizon."
— Franklin D. Roosevelt**

used 1,500 bags, all donated."

Then, they decided about Covid, "it wasn't that bad," Brewington said, and they resumed the soup kitchen using common-sense precautions.

Today, the living spaces they have are full, and there is a waiting list. It seems – pandemic or no pandemic – drugs and the evils of addiction are relentless. They use the Celebrate Recovery curriculum, a Christian-based study that involves deacons, ministers, and local churches – clients are willing to go to churches to provide their testimonies. One of their clients, 19 years old, is battling fentanyl. One of their clients after graduation is headed to Seminary.

But, the Devil is always on the prowl. It was heroin before fentanyl. It is fentanyl and meth now – meth messes with the receptors in the brain. As Brewington says, "Meds do not work with meth."

He won't even let the client walk the city streets of Clinton, in case temptation lurks. He's told them "I'll find some place you can walk" and at times that's been Millers Fork Trail, near Clinton, and is envisioned some day for The Loop Trail which is behind the Laurens County Hospital.

He readily admits that mental health issues are "outside of us."

But, to reverse that, there is something that is "inside of us."

"Randy Stevens with WLBG laid on my heart, we had one female and now two more females in a support group for families. If they have a loved one on drugs, they can come to the next meeting. There was one family and another may come," Brewington said. "And, this has just fallen in our lap. There are more than drug issues involved in homelessness. We have to educate people that (homeless people) are not all the same. There are addiction, mental health issues, people who are homeless (for economic reasons)."

"Just" working against addiction is not Charles Brewington's style. Now he has to branch into homelessness, too. That's because he has seen miracles in people – "Three months (at Open Door) is not long enough, they have to go home and get involved. Soon we will bring 6 more in. We hate to see these 6 leave; it is a cycle, a season of doing good. Or, you have one or two that you have to tug up the hill to get where they want to go; they are fighting all the way. They are broken up – they are brash and bold but broken inside; three weeks, a month later, they are smiling. They do their work and graduate." The ministry that is the legacy of Charles Brewington and his family, its board of directors, donors and clients is an open door to an addicted person's new life, if they will just walk through it. - Vic MacDonald

Wesley Harrell

January 18 at 3:50 PM

Shared with Public group

7 men from The Open Door Christian Center have accepted Christ Jesus as their Savior and was baptized today 1-18-24. Please keep them in prayer as Christ has started a great work in the men...

Charles Brewington

Author

"Hope restored: restoring hope to the family". A ministry to families who have loved ones in active addiction, recovery, or just casually using/drinking. Has begun and the next meeting will be February 13th in the Open Door Christian Center @2:30pm. You are welcome to come and get answers to your questions about the subject.

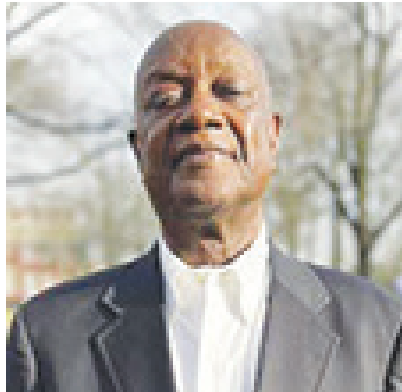
About

The Open Door is a 501(c)3 organization, in good standing with the IRS and all donations are tax deductible. We target 3 areas; 1) Homelessness for men, women and children; 2) Addiction recovery for men and women; 3) hunger/ Soup Kitchen

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/818218561581125/>

Citizens
of the Year

1996 Jim Roberts
1997 Joel Evans
1998 Josh and Ella
Savage
1999 Pat Neal
2000 Ted Hunter
2001 David Peden
2002 Bailey Dixon
2003 Jimmy Revis
2004 Dr. Jerman
Disasa
2005 Wayne Dietz



2006 Lumus Byrd
(above, recently named
a PC Trustee) and Russ
Emerson
2007 Cynde O'Rear
2008 Dr. Bud
Marchant
2009 Norman
Scarborough
2010 Ruth Sharpe
2011 Ron and Nancy
Dove
2012 Norman Pigeon
2013 Rev. Mims Cam
2014 Rev. Herb
Codington

2015 Peggy Nibert
2016 G Ramage
2017 King Dixon
2018 Brenda Ligon
2019 Susan Galloway
2020 Elton Pollock
2021 Vickie Cheek
2022 Dina Hair
2023 Azalee Floyd
2024 Charles
Brewington

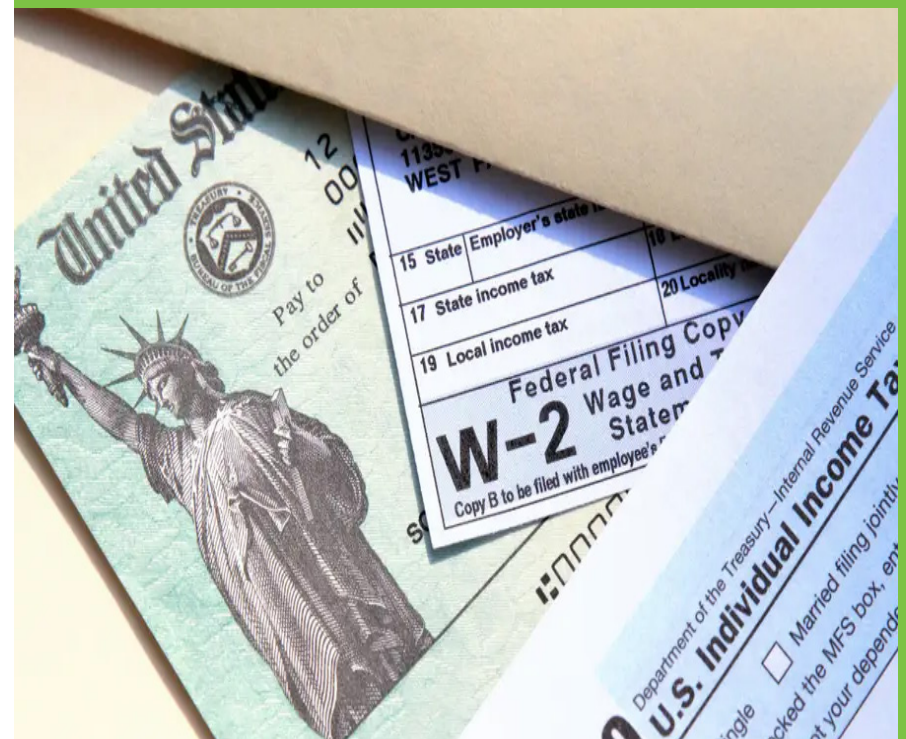
Teachers
of the Year

1996 Howard
Pierce, Clinton
Elementary
1997 Amy Poag,
Clinton High
1998 Elizabeth
Crowder, Eastside
Elementary
1999 Cynthia
Simmons,
Thornwell
2000 Nancy
Morgan, Eastside
Elementary
2001 Diane Evans,
Clinton High
2002 Valerie Jones,
Thornwell
2003 Paula Pace, Bell
Street Middle
2004 Debbie Green,
Eastside Elementary
2005 Courtney
Robertson, Laurens
Academy
2006 Prondolyn
Copeland, MS Bailey
Elementary
2007 Martha Hunt,

Martha Dendy Sixth
Grade Center
2008 Marjorie Tobias,
Clinton Elementary
2009 Susan Cauble,
J o a n n a - W o o d s o n
Elementary
2010 Terri O'Shields,
Bell Street Middle
2011 Erica Coats,
Bell Street Middle
2012 Jenks Howe,
Clinton Elementary
2013 Jennifer
Satterwhite, Joanna-
Woodson Elementary
2014 Jennifer
Howard, Clinton High
2015 Nancy Wood,
Clinton High
2016 Annette Bodie,
Clinton High
2017 Brian Lyda,
Clinton Elementary
2018 Brooke Spatta,
Presbyterian College
2019 Carissa Messer,
Clinton Elementary
2020 Caroline Hunt,
Clinton Elementary, and
Faculty, Summit
Classical Charter School
2021 Ryan Caughman,
Clinton High
2022 Kolman
McMurphy, Clinton
High
2023 Olivia Gardner,
Clinton Middle
2024 Dr. Richard
Thomas, Presbyterian
College
Chronicle Files

**#1 franchise in the Georgia/
South Carolina district for
customer satisfaction**

**#3 franchise in the Georgia/
South Carolina district for
returns completed**



**SERVING THE
LAURENS COUNTY
AREA FOR 56 YEARS**

**H&R
BLOCK®**

**350 Church Street
Laurens, SC • 29360**

**218 S Broad Street
Clinton, SC • 29325**

**864.984.5632 • 864.833.4100
Available Year-Round**

Whiteford's
CLINTON
Since 1957

A Clinton Original
Serving Laurens County since
1957

Home of the Giant Burger
711 S Broad St, Clinton - (864)833-0193

Dr. Richard Thomas

Teacher of the Year - In a Healthy Place

When you hear it -- that rich tone, not squeaky like a violin, not down in the tomb like a bass -- that “sweet spot” of the cello, it moves you.

Richard Thomas found that experience at Jack Benny Jr. Junior High School, now called a middle school, and he knew – he just knew – he wanted to perform on that instrument for the rest of his life. His dad – as dads are prone to do – gave him the unvarnished advice that he would never make a living doing that, so falling back on teaching might be advisable. But, a young man in love, you can't reason with that.

So, that is why – because he wanted to be a performer and accomplished that goal, then when he got burned out he became a teacher and excelled at that – THAT is the reason why Dr. Richard Thomas, chairman of the Department of Music at Presbyterian College, is The Horizon Teacher of the Year.

If you follow him on Facebook, you will see pictures of his time in Bogota, a vast South American city, you will see photos of the students of which Thomas is so proud, you will see his “practice spaces” – the vast Belk Auditorium and the much more intimate Edmunds Hall -- and you will see his photography from a small digital camera. He is looking around for an upgrade.

He recently posted a photo of a hawk sitting atop a PC light post that would make any nature photographer sit up and take notice.

Thomas (performing at Garden Song, photo above) recently recruited a student to PC from Dreher High School in Columbia, so he feels responsible for the student's success, and sent a former student on to direct music at A.C. Flora High School, also in the capital city, so that student/teacher/director very likely would say Thomas is one of those responsible for his success. The music program at Laurens District High School is sustained by the talent recruited from PC Music.

His former students have become “friends and colleagues – that was



unexpected.”

“I have left a legacy of PC strings’ teachers. I can retire satisfied.”

Presbyterian College is going to have something to say about that. The local college elevated Thomas to department chair in a recent board of trustees-approved move and, although now he has to do one of his lesser satisfying things, filling out an Excel spread sheet of who teaches what and when next semester, that comes with its own levels of new challenges and satisfactions. Blue Hose Music

is preparing to enter its extremely busy spring semester of concerts and recitals. Changes are coming, he says with a sly smile, but he can't be more specific; it all needs to be run by the higher-ups.

After finding the instrument that “gave me an identity,” Thomas decided in junior high that “I am going to play in a symphony.” His first job came at 24 and it “set the path for the rest of my life.” Ten years later, burned out from constant playing and touring, he came to a tiny state he had learned

about from a girl in Bogota, a city of 8 Million people, and landed at the University of South Carolina. He went from there to UNC-Wilmington and then to Presbyterian College. He has played in all the area symphonies, “but now I can't” because of the expanded workload and the attraction of a quiet life in Laurens, within easy commuting distance to Clinton and his office in the penthouse of the back of Belk Auditorium. He has visited China and Japan – because of Presbyterian College.

“I am grateful to PC for giving me these opportunities.”

It's no secret now that liberal arts colleges face challenges, especially post-pandemic enrollment, but for Thomas college is a simple decision. “If you know what you want to be, it's worth it. If you think you can, you can. Everyone I know doubted me, but I felt it in me. I had a goal and I worked for it. (Today's college students) some know, some are not sure.”

At PC, music opens the doors to many other life avenues. Some musicians are on track for medical school; some find their calling in teaching. Musicians who become surgeons find playing an instrument hones the fine motor skills – 60 percent of PC musicians are headed to medical school. “One medical school asks its applicants what their musical background is,” Thomas said.

It's as simple, and as complex, as this: Music uses both sides of the brain. There is connective tissue between the right side and the left side; for musicians that tissue is thicker and able to transfer more skills. Musicians are better organized, Thomas says.

“Music uses all parts of the brain like nothing else.”

As an extension of his interests, Thomas has attended some of the field trips involving Revolutionary War battle sites in Laurens County. As an Original 13 Colony, South Carolina is one of the most involved states in the nation as it pertains to the history of The American Revolution, which observes its 250th Anniversary in 2026. A 250th Committee is very

active in South Carolina and in Laurens County, which has more war sites than almost any county in the United States, except in areas of New England where patriots conducted raids on the British for food and supplies. Here, our ancestors engaged the Toris and British sympathizers in battle, and sometimes extremely bloody battle, and from that rises a rich history.

It is a fascinating subject for Thomas. In part of his younger days, he surprisingly became fascinated by The Russian Revolution. "I read 'War and Peace'. I read everything about The Russian Revolution. For five years, I read nothing but The Russian Revolution."

So, it seems that Richard Thomas has landed where he needs to be – in a land of Musgrove Mill State Historic Site, an important Revolutionary War battle site, and at a liberal arts college that needs music to be an extension of its mission. A place where you can point a camera at churches and courthouses, sunsets and sunrises over land and lake, and at hawks sitting on lampposts scouring the landscape for food.

Reflectively, he says, "I am so glad I live in Laurens County. It is a good place, a healthy place."

-Vic MacDonald

Department Chair, Director of Strings & CHamber Orchestra,
Professor of Music, Cello, Orchestra
BM, DePauw University
MM, University of North Texas
DMA, University of South Carolina
Office Phone: 864-833-8469
Email Dr. Thomas

Dr. Richard Thomas is Professor of Music at Presbyterian College. He teaches cello, bass, chamber music, and directs the Presbyterian College Chamber Orchestra. He is also Adjunct Instructor at Lander University, and Instructor at the Laurens County Academy of Music.

Thomas is a former faculty member of the University of North Carolina Wilmington, the Universidad del Cauca and Universidad del Valle in Colombia, the Conservatorio Nacional of the Dominican Republic, the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Wilmington Academy of Music and from 1999-

2008 was String Department Head at Camp Encore/Coda in Maine.

Thomas held full-time positions in the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia and the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional of the Dominican Republic. He was Principal Cello of the Wilmington Symphony and Tallis Chamber Orchestra in North Carolina, the Irving Symphony and Garland Symphony in Texas, and the Encore-Coda Chamber Orchestra in Maine. Thomas was Interim Assistant Principal of the South Carolina Philharmonic, Assistant Principal of the East Texas Symphony, and the Dallas Lyric Opera Orchestra.

Dr. Thomas has taught and performed in China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Japan, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Venezuela and throughout the US. He conducted the 2018 SC Region 1, 11-12 Orchestra and the 2020 SC Region 3, 11-12 Orchestra.

Thomas studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music, DePauw University, Temple University, the University of North Texas and received a DMA degree from the University of South



Carolina. His cello teachers include Cassel Grubb, Alan Harris, Robert Jesselson, Hirofumi Kano, Robert Newkirk, and Adolfo Odnoposoff.

Above, Richard Thomas writes, "Saturday - Foothills Philharmonic String Quartete Recital. Cellist, Collin McKinnon, my former student (PC 2019 dual Music/Accounting). His 2nd year with the group. Propud of him! They sound great."

Presbyterian College Department of Music - Congratulations - Laurens District High School Orchestra Director KRIS BRIGGS (PC music alumni 2015) performance at the South Carolina School Boards Association 2024 Annual Convention in Hilton Head, SC! Great job! Find a video at: <https://www.facebook.com/PCDeptOfMusic/>



Providing **SAFE** Drinking Water
Providing Excellent **CUSTOMER SERVICE**
ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE Wastewater Treatment
Supporting **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Offering **Recreational Opportunities**
Preparing for the Future

The mission of Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission is to ensure that our customers are provided with a sustainable supply of safe, quality drinking water and to provide environmentally sound wastewater collection and treatment services.

LCWSC Trust in Every Drop

864-682-3250 | 800-358-3445
3850 Highway 221, Laurens, SC

Visit us at www.LCWSC.com
Follow us on Social Media



The Late John Dowdle Family Man, Public Servant

“He loved to serve.”

These were the first words from Richard Dowdle, as he brought a large plastic container filled with his dad, John Dowdle’s, awards to The Chronicle’s conference room. These mementos were on the wall of the former Clinton City Councilman’s wall at his apartment at Woodbridge Senior Living.

Mr. Dowdle passed away Jan. 13 at Woodbridge; and in honor of his lifetime of public service, The Chronicle is taking the unusual step of having a posthumous article in this, the Horizons progress edition.

Because, John Dowdle was on the cutting edge of setting a foundation for progress that Clinton enjoys today.

Richard and Sandy Dowdle and Amanda Dowdle talked about his legacy - a connection to Thornwell, mentoring boys, a passion for Presbyterian College that has led Sandy and Amanda to work there, his



pride of service in the United States Army, and that intangible: the ability to make everyone he came in contact with feel valuable.

“Being involved with people was his favorite hobby,” Richard said. “People were drawn to him. He called everyone by name, and he didn’t meet a stranger.”

Some of the boys he mentored at Thornwell were the men who served as his pallbearers. He always wanted to keep going even when being confined to a wheelchair made mobility difficult. Late in his life, John had friends over to watch the Clemson game. At one point, they encircled him and prayed over him and called him the father they never had.

John and his late wife, Florine Ginn Dowdle, grew up at Thornwell, and they became the kind of parents and grandparents you see when you

look those words up in the dictionary. Remarkable considering they did not have parents as role models throughout their lives. When both of his granddaughters were in day care at Thornwell, John would walk the building as a caretaker and football coach, and jealousy would ensure. The girls had to “share him” with all the other children. They took him to the Fourth of July parade and party in the College View neighborhood of Clinton just last year.

For 19 years, John and Louie Webb sold tickets to Presbyterian

SADLER HUGHES
APOTHECARY
Since 1917

Walter M. Hughes, Jr. Pharmacist | Walter M. Hughes III Pharmacist | Jan D. Childs Pharmacist | Kelley Castaneda Pharmacist

SADLER-HUGHES
APOTHECARY

For over 100 years, Sadler Hughes Apothecary has been serving the Clinton community, providing the highest level of personalized service to all customers.

We look forward to serving you!

102 Jacobs Hwy • Clinton, SC 29325 | 864.833.6459





John Holmes Dowdle, Sr.

CLINTON - John Holmes Dowdle, Sr., age 89, of Clinton, SC passed away, Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Woodbridge Retirement Center, Clinton.

Mr. Dowdle was born in Sharon, York County, SC and is the son of the late Oliver Smith Dowdle, Sr. and Cancis V. Pruitt. Following the death of his parents, Mr. Dowdle went to live at the Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton as a pre-teen.

He served in the United States Army from 1954-1956 with the 10th Infantry Division in Germany. After completing his military service, Mr. Dowdle returned to Clinton where he rendered forty-four years of service as a vital member of Thornwell's professional staff. For several years during this time, Mr. Dowdle was also an assistant football coach at Thornwell High School. Upon the occasion of his retirement from Thornwell in April of 2000, Thornwell honored him by rededicating the former Thornwell "Mayes Baby Cottage" as the Mayes-Dowdle Alumni Center.

He married Florine Ginn in September of 1957, and they became active members in the Clinton community. The Dowdles were long-standing members of First

Presbyterian Church of Clinton where he also served as an elder and sat on various denominational committees. In 1981 he was a delegate to their church General Assembly.

During his career, Mr. Dowdle also served on the Boards of numerous organizations including the South Carolina Home in Montreat, NC, the YMCA and the Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority. Additionally, he served 15 years as a member of the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

In September of 1994 he was elected to the City Council of Clinton, serving for two decades before his retirement from public service in March of 2015.

Mr. Dowdle is survived by his children, Ret. COL John H. Dowdle, Jr. (Cynthia) of Alexandria, VA, Richard Dowdle (Sandy) of Clinton, Karen Vance (Todd) of Cornelius, NC; son in law Charlie Bell and his grandchildren, Taylor Bell (Taylor), Amanda Dowdle, Ashton Bell, Lauren Dowdle, Mallory Vance, Sydney Vance; and his brother Marion "P-nut" Dowdle. He is also survived by nieces and nephews. He is pre-deceased by his brother Robert Dowdle, his wife Florine Ginn Dowdle and daughter Elizabeth "Beth" Bell.

A Memorial service will be held Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Clinton with Rev. Dr. Duke Dixon and Rev. Chad Reynolds officiating.

The family will greet friends immediately following the service in the church fellowship hall. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Thornwell Home for Children at 302 S. Broad Street, Clinton, SC 29325 or <https://thornwell.org/give/>.

Gray Funeral Home of Clinton is assisting the Dowdle family with services.

Florine Ginn Dowdle

CLINTON - Florine Ginn Dowdle, age 85, of Clinton, SC passed away, Thursday, July 12, 2018 at the Hospice House of Laurens County.

She was born in Seffner, FL and was a daughter of the late W. Luther and Amerine Fowler Ginn.

Mrs. Dowdle came to Clinton at a young age. Growing up at Thornwell Orphanage, education became an important part of her life. She graduated from Thornwell High School and then went on to earn a B.S. in Accounting from Florida State University. She retired in 1999 as Registrar of Presbyterian College with 26 years of service and prior to that, worked at Thornwell Home for Children for several years. In 2017, Flo was presented with the honorary alumna award by Presbyterian

College. She was an active member and volunteer of the First Presbyterian Church of Clinton, an Alumni Volunteer of Thornwell, as well as, the Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic. She was a dedicated Silver Sneaker of the Clinton YMCA and an avid reader and crossword puzzle solver.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, John Dowdle of the home; her children, Ret. Col. John Dowdle, Jr. (Cynthia) of Alexandria, VA, Beth Bell (Charlie) of Charlotte, NC, Richard Dowdle (Sandy) of Clinton, Karen Vance (Todd) of Cornelius, NC; her grandchildren, Taylor Bell, Amanda Dowdle, Ashton Bell, Lauren Dowdle, Mallory Vance, Sydney Vance; her brothers-in-law, S.M. Bell and Marion "P-nut" Dowdle. She is also survived by nieces and nephews.

A Memorial service will be held Sunday, July 15, 2018 at 2:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Clinton, the family will receive friends immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Thornwell Home for Children, 302 South Broad Street, Clinton SC 29325 or to the Hospice of Laurens County, P.O. 178, Clinton SC 29325.

Condolences may be expressed online the family at www.grayfuneralhome.com Gray Funeral Home of Clinton



WOODBRIDGE
SENIOR LIVING

If a senior in your family is looking for the perfect place to retire, put Woodbridge at the top of your list. We provide memory care, general care, and person-centered care. Call to learn more today!



300 Jacobs Highway • Clinton, SC
864.833.3425

John Dowdle

College basketball games in the former Springs Center Gym and then transitioned to the Templeton Center - and, as every sports fan knows, when you have a men's team and a women's team playing basketball, that can be a long season.

He was involved in the Kiwanis Club and in the American Legion because "the girls had to go to Girls State."

He served on what is now the Laurens County Disabilities & Special Needs Board. He served on the Clinton-Newberry Natural Gas Authority board.

He called then-newly-elected Clinton Council Member Megan Walsh to offer encouragement as she was elected to the city's governing body.

He was a Godly man, devoted to First Presbyterian Church in Clinton, and demonstrated "a very strong faith."

He was especially proud of the annual Veterans' Day observance organized by the late Robbie



GateWay Counseling Center

Gateway Counseling Center offers a variety of services related to the prevention, intervention, and treatment of substance use disorders. Confidential services are provided by licensed, certified, and trained staff

If you or a loved one is being impacted by substance abuse or addiction, call our office today.

219 Human Services Road • Clinton, SC 29325

864.833.6500



Cruikshanks and the American Legion Auxiliary. Through a friend, he was designated an honorary Kentucky Colonel.

His family says, late in life, he loved Bailey Manor where he went to live when he needed a higher level of care and Woodbridge, and he voiced concerns on behalf of residents who

themselves did not have a voice or family. That retirement community is located in the former Clinton hospital - Richard Dowdle says he was one of the first babies born there in 1962.

Then, in 2024, he and others in the family removed the mementos of John Dowdle's life, but certainly not his legacy, from the wall, one by one.

"Exploration is wired into our brains. If we can see the horizon, we want to know what's beyond." Buzz Aldrin

Laurens County Humane Society Community said no, you can't close shelter

Back from the dead.

Literally like hundreds of dogs they have rescued from irresponsible owners or freezing weather or predators. Literally like thousands of cats saved from overbreeding, coyotes and other predators, or starvation.

Just about this time last year, the Laurens County Humane Society told the community, "We are out of money." A dream, for some organizers more than a decade in the making and fruition, seemed like it was at the end.

Until it wasn't.

Today, the Humane Society's no-kill shelter for dogs and cats is still bustling, still sending animals to fosters, is even bigger now than when it was built, and has a handle on finances with new board members Norman Scarborough, Marvin Moss and Randy Stevens joining founding members Jill Mechling and Brooke Spatta – and their staff, volunteers and community donors – in making the 793 Poplar Street in Clinton shelter viable again.

"November a year ago we had enough funds for two months," Mechling said, "so I went to the media, I didn't know what else to do – the media and Facebook, and Channel 7. That brought in donations from businesses and individuals, many of whom had never given to us. If nothing else, we could keep our good employees that we have, and go to Plan B, giving all our animals to fosters and keeping a few employees and a manager to take (adoption) applications."

Then, "everything pulled together."

Now the Humane Society has sent one update letter to donors outlining the progress. They received a \$20,000 grant, they opened an account at Edward Jones to put their money to work, and they raised \$38,000 on spay/neuter that could be invested in a certificate of deposit.

They are considering the purchase of a mobile spay/neuter clinic that could further the outreach, designed to stem the tide of unwanted and uncared-for and unhealthy dogs and



cats in Laurens County. More shots, vaccinations and chips clinics also are on tap (the next Chips and Tips events will be March 9 and April 6, 2 – 3 p.m. at the clinic. Info and prices for services are on the Humane Society's social media). This is a major fundraiser for the group and the first time they had it, they learned a valuable lesson – demand was so great they worked into the night to satisfy all comers, meaning they needed to offer the services more often.

They put together a donors' packet of information. Now the operation is sustainable; however, the Laurens County Humane Society needs more income through adoptions – the fee is \$50; if spay is involved, it costs more.

"Remember, puppies are an 18-year commitment, sometimes longer. We advise that on our applications, same for cats," Mechling said.

The Humane Society wants more – more fundraisers, yard sales, tables at community events, other businesses contacted, more clinics and services, more overnight events like the one a running club sponsored in the Lanford community, more visits from Jordan's Way, like the one Nov. 1 when the center staff and Sheriff's officers assisted with intake and applications.

More supply drives – "whatever we don't have to buy, that's more for vet bills and utilities."

Right now, the shelter is full – some wild cats roam outside; they can tell because small shelters designed to keep cats warm inside have indentations on the outside that show the cats slept on top of the shelters. Other cats





THE CLINTON
PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY
Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina



*Senior Living with
Small Town Charm*

801 Musgrove Street Clinton - 864-939-0590

Humane Society

can roam indoors-outdoors through a “kitty door” from the building to a large, fenced area. When it got to be 17 degrees, the shelter closed the door and kept all their cats inside.

That outside area is named for Grayson, a local couple’s son who died and loved cats. A donation was made to do something for cats, and Tractor Supply assisted with the fencing and volunteer labor constructed the pen, Mechling said.

On the other side, a fundraiser produced another dog run area. Inside, the shelter still has its same-since-construction, six kennels. The Humane Society needs a part-timer to keep these kennels clean and, Mechling said, have no illusions, this is tougher work than it would appear – still, it would be rewarding for the right person.

The shelter keeps a small food bank, so pet owners who are just a little short on income for pet food can get a tide-me-over bag or can. Tractor Supply, Dollar General, Ingles, and individuals make donations here. The stores give 50-pound bags that the shelter breaks down into 3.5 pounds.

“Anything off our wish list, volunteers are great, we need a dog trainer – many would be adopted faster if they knew more commands – supplies and money” are what Mechling lists as needs right now. Walmart has a system that pays the shelter when their employees volunteer, and Mechling says more companies could be providing that option. The Walmart employees volunteered for MLK Day service and logged their hours online and “from that a black cat was adopted.”

Presbyterian College tennis and baseball teams have volunteered at the Laurens County Humane Society.

The shelter needs more business cards and thank you notes, and something that sounds really simple – Mechling said, “Someone to sit in a room with cats, so they get used to being with people.”

One reason this non-profit, like so many others, struggled for a time was because of a 3-month Covid closing

CHIPS AND TIPS EVENT
Saturday March 9, 2024
2pm - 3pm @ 793 Poplar Street, Clinton, SC

Nail Trim – \$10 / Rabies – \$10 / DHPP – \$15 / Bordetella – \$12
Microchipping – \$20 / Heartworm Testing – \$14 / Feline FVRCP – \$12
Dewormer (hooks/rounds) – \$5 / Flea & Tick – \$20 pill / HW Prevention – \$10 pill



period.

Now they’re back – with T-shirts bought for Squealin’ on the Square, with appearances at Joe Adair Outdoor Education Center events, with plans for an online auction and with Animal Allies as their partner for surgeries.

Mechling said, “We hope to have that (animal surgeries) onsite and go mobile.” - Vic MacDonald

Previous Page: Laurens County Humane Society updated their profile picture. February 5 at 10:06 AM · Meet Whiskey Adoption Information: Are you ready to add a bundle of energy and love to your family? Look no further than Whiskey, the delightful 11-week-old lab mix with a personality as fiery as his name suggests! Whiskey is on the lookout for a forever home where he can thrive and spread joy. Personality: Whiskey is a pint-sized dynamo, overflowing with spunk and enthusiasm. Despite his tender age, he’s already brimming with personality, ready to take on the world with his boundless energy and zest for life. His playful nature knows no bounds, and he’s always up for an adventure, whether it’s a romp in the yard or a game of fetch with his favorite humans. Ideal Home: Whiskey’s ideal home would include a large fenced yard where he can stretch his legs and indulge in his favorite pastime: running and playing to his heart’s content. His love for children knows no bounds, and he adores nothing more than joining in their games and showering them with affection. Additionally, Whiskey thrives in the company of other dogs, making him the perfect companion for families with existing furry members.

**Laurens County's Residential Growth:
Listing of Approved Subdivisions by**

Year

Approved in 2020

Durbin Meadows

- Approved September 29, 2020
- 941 Lots
- 304.83 Acres

Hunts Bridge Estates

- Approved November 24, 2020
- 19 Lots
- 25.35 Acres

Approved in 2021

Holly Grove

- Phase I
- Approved January 19, 2021
- 419 Lots
- 106 Acres

Brighton Meadows

- Approved April 6, 2021
- 89 Lots
- 29.62 Acres

Friendship Drive

- Approved April 6, 2021
- 14 Lots
- 10.44 Acres

Reedy Creek

- Approved June 15, 2021
- 161 Lots
- 46.83 Acres

Coachman Reserve

- Approved June 15, 2021
- 62 Lots
- 68.65 Acres

Fox Hollow

- Approved July 20, 2021
- 253 Lots
- 74.25 Acres

Wren Woods



- Approved July 20, 2021
- 429 Lots
- 108.5 Acres

Wells Creek (work pictured above)

- Approved July 20, 2021
- 475 Lots
- 133.44 Acres

Bolt Road

- Approved October 19, 2021
- 45 Lots
- 43.94 Acres

Pennington Farms

- Approved November 16, 2021
- 8 Lots

Approved in 2022

Barnes Road

- Approved February 15, 2022
- 75 Lots
- 31 Acres

Covey Chase

- Approved March 15, 2022
- 438 Lots
- 150.47 Acres

Bridgeway

- Approved June 17, 2022
- 142 Lots
- 57.38 Acres

Note: In 2023, Laurens County Council adopted a modified subdivisions ordinance.

Source: Laurens County Website-Planning



**“Between two worlds life hovers like
a star, twixt night and morn, upon
the horizon’s verge.”**

-Lord Byron

**500 West Main Street • Laurens
504 East Carolina Avenue • Clinton**



CNNGA

The Clinton Newberry Natural Gas Authority

With your safety in mind, please call SC811 before you dig. This will protect you and your property, and prevent interruption of vital services.

Service:

Natural Gas is a clean, cost effective source of energy. CNNGA is proud to offer affordable service and competitive rates.

CNNGA Products

Visit our show room at the Clinton and Newberry offices to view a wide range of appliances.

- Standard and Tankless water heaters
- Ranges and Washer/Dryers
- Space Heaters
- Natural Gas Grills
- Natural Gas Logs



**cnnnga.sc.gov • Springdale Drive, Clinton
864.833.1862
Before Digging, please call SC811**

SUMMIT CLASS

A TUITION-FREE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL



SMALL CLASS SIZES • INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION
EXPERIENCED TEACHERS • WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION



Ms. Sean Lane
School Leader



SIGN UP FOR A ONE-ON-ONE WITH OUR SCHOOL LEADER



PROVIDE YOUR CHILD WITH
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

RE-ENROLLING?

REDEEM THIS COUPON ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR A FREE WELCOME-BACK PACKET.

FIRST-TIME STUDENT?

REDEEM THIS COUPON ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR A SPECIAL WELCOME GIFT.

SUMMIT CLASSICAL SCHOOL

SCHOOL SERVING GRADES K-7 IN CLINTON, SC



INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION
WHOLE-STUDENT DEVELOPMENT



ENROLL YOUR CHILD
FOR THE 2024-2025
SCHOOL YEAR



Learning beyond
the classroom!

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT,
GROWTH, AND SUCCESS.

CURRENT STUDENT?

REDEEM THIS COUPON ON THE
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR SOME
SUMMIT SWAG.

@summitclassicalschoo

www.summitclassicalschoo.com

600 E. Florida St., Clinton, SC 29325

(866) 202-2929

Sutton Field Brings a business back to her town

The lure of the big city is too much to ignore. Businesspeople see the rooftops, the people and nightlife, the disposable income, and they are just drawn in. Then, their customers start telling them that traffic is murder, that their shop is in the wrong place, that it's just too much trouble.

Don't get us wrong. Big Cities have thousands of very successful businesses. But for self-described "Clinton girl" Sutton Field, now is the time to bring her business back home.

This month she opened The Bohemian Color Lounge right in the heart of Uptown Clinton – it is literally half a block from city hall. Coloring is her specialty, but another stylist will give clients who want a wild color just what they're looking for. The shop is on the ground floor of a building that used to be a bank – now there are



ground floor shops and second story apartments in a re-imagining that won the City of Clinton a prestigious statewide preservation award. The City is hoping to attract a tenant to a building just across Broad Street that will do something similar – that would provide a complement to a strong string of businesses that make up East and West Main Street, crossing the up and coming Musgrove Street business area which has one large building also looking for the tenant. This is truly the middle of Clinton – the performance-friendly Depot is across Main Street and the Square, and the warehouse-restored-to-be-an-events-venue, The Cotton Loft, is a short walk away. Within eye-shot of The Cotton Loft, Clinton is getting a new Public Library.

Looking around her shop, said Field (seated, photo at right), "I always

thought 'there is something about those doors' to the eye; I never knew I would wind up in it."

She was in Greenville in a private suite for 3 years, closing there and moving here. She has a loyal client base that says Clinton is easier to get to from Spartanburg than traffic-heavy Greenville and for others in Columbia it's an even shorter drive. Plus, Field said everybody she knows in Clinton, having grown up here, certainly is welcome to stop by. "Color is my specialty, and they know

me. I grew up here. Through Instagram they have found us, and through word of mouth. It's every 6 weeks for traditional highlights, but some like to go months – they live their lives, not coming to the salon for hours."

Field also can install invisible bead extensions, and care and treatment to combat frizz, and she is open to the idea of haircuts for men (although not offering that service yet). She can do hair and makeup for clients at other properties, mostly for weddings, and "prom girls can come here," she said. Her shop has top-of-the-line Kevin Murphy products.

"Small towns are trending. I see Clinton growing. I am closer to family. I would rather be here than in Greenville, where we would not stand out. The vision I want is a high-end salon, something you find in a big city, in a small town."

She has introduced her business with Galentine festivities on Feb. 17, offering a Permanent Jewelry station, complimentary wine and coffee, Mimosas and non-alcohol beverages. Just prior to her business ribbon-cutting, Field said she was anxious to see wallpaper and hanging plants in



The Bohemian Color Lounge is at The Bohemian Color Lounge. 2d Everyone meet Kayleigh! Junior Stylist & Sutton's apprentice! Kayleigh (standing) will be working as Sutton's right hand woman along with training under her to master the art of lived in color!

Kayleigh just got certified this week! She will now have a condensed menu of services that she will now be offering in salon! As her training continues, her menu will grow!

Check out her current menu on our website!

the salon. This business will combine efforts with another, Vintage Bloom, selling Fedoras custom designed with anything the customer wants in accessories; Sutton and her sister-in-law, Gracie Shell, collaborate on this

business. Her mom, Mary Shell, who is well-known in School District 56 circles, also is a business ambassador.

The Bohemian Color Lounge is at 108 North Broad Street, Clinton.

- Vic MacDonald

**Lakelands Family Practice
& Pediatrics Center**
864-393-1020



Dr. Elcy Zimik



Dr. Christine Gray

**Laurens County Community
Care Center (LC4)**
864-547-8304



Allyson Hale, PA



Chris McCaslan, PA

**HomeTown
Pediatrics**
864-547-8300



Dr. Ashley
Jenkins



Dr. Daniel
Lapp



Dr. Cassandra
Saunders



Stephanie Schafer
NP

Your medical home for 47 years.
www.carolinahealthcenters.org



The Lumberyard

A year in, Newcomers find their footing

Bringing an old building back to life is an expensive and time-consuming process. To facilitate the process, federal and state governments provide historical buildings and abandoned buildings tax credits for entrepreneurs brave enough to tackle the process.

Enter Charlie and Stacey Michaels. He is an engineering manager with GulfStream out of Savannah and she is a case supervisor with Project Hope in Greenwood, which assists people with autism. He is a former CrossFit instructor; that is important to the story.

The Michaels moved from Bluffton in the Lowcountry of South Carolina to the Laurens County side of Lake Greenwood, and they were on the look-out for a CrossFit gym. Clinton has one.

Now enter Janice and Jay Long. The Michaels and the Longs connected at 864 CrossFit – Charlie can teach a class when the Longs take



a vacation. Janice knows, basically, every building in Clinton, since 864 CrossFit moved not too long ago, from part of a massive warehouse on West Main Street to a more compact vacant building on Pitts Street – it was, literally, a move across the street. Janice certainly knew about the former DE Tribble lumber building.

Vacant and neglected, the building came into the possession of the City of Clinton and, through a process akin to magic, but more along the lines of negotiation, that structure came into the Michaels' possession. They wanted

to open a watering hole for Clinton.

“This place needs a bar, and we had just seen Palmetto Brothers open in Laurens,”

Charlie

said, during a recent interview seated at the massive wooden bar at The Lumberyard, just ahead of two seatings for Valentine's Day evening dinner.

“Janice put us in touch with Marvin Moss (the city's now-retired economic development director), and he showed us about a half dozen buildings. This was owned by the city, and we worked with Marvin to purchase it.”

Now, you would think that opening a bar in Clinton would be a slow-growth process, changing the habits of people used to traveling at least to Simpsonville for a drink and dinner. There are places to grab a beer and wings in Clinton but “Oh no!” your neighbors might see you. The neighborhood would be abuzz.

Nope.

The Lumberyard is being embraced by Clinton, mostly because of the Michaels' aggressive campaign of staging live music and “nights” for local groups and events. By the way, they have an upstairs space that will be renovated into an events space, but it cannot be rented – that would require an elevator. Once it comes online, just set things up with Charlie and then it's up to YOU to get people up and down the steps. And don't even try to make a rent-for-the-event payment.

“The PC faculty and staff have supported us from Day One,” Michaels said, of nearby Presbyterian College. “Every month we see more students and staff.” The Laurens County Development Corporation recently booked the downstairs space on a Tuesday evening for a happy hour in advance of a Saturday basketball game in Templeton Center.

People have caught on to the attraction of a sit and relax, live music venue at the end of the work week. Unlimited wings for \$15, courtesy of The Pasture restaurant, is a big hit. It seems combining a consistent food menu with libations and fun “is a really good combination,” Charlie says.

Out back there's a fenced area, a throwback to when the building was a thriving place for lumber and building materials, which now houses picnic tables and an under-construction, small performing stage.

“It's a great place to enjoy the sunshine.”

Michaels said they tried to have a Movie Night out there last summer, but the nighttime temperature was 97 degrees, so they moved inside.

“We're here for the community. We're here for the college,” Michaels said. And, it seems, the feeling is mutual. Just watch a karaoke night video on The Lumberyard's Facebook page. WPCC and the Largetime Network's Pat Patterson will host another shag night coming up. There's a future performance booked by up and coming local singer Andrew Wooten. And, don't forget about Pints with the Pastor.

In addition to this space, upstairs and down, the Michaels control two adjoining buildings in this large Gary Street structure just off Clinton's main thoroughfare, Broad Street. What will become of them is anyone's guess.

“We are looking for ideas, what the city needs,” Michaels said. “We are looking for folks to invest with us. We don't know what would succeed around here.”

The Michaels are engaged with the newly re-activated merchants' association for brainstorming.

The Michaels also can provide a road map on getting a business in a historic building up and running. Charlie said their original idea was a small business loan, but the process was overbearing. They took out a home equity loan on their house in Bluffton. Then there's navigating all



**Comprehensive dental
care for your entire family**

Seth C. Reynolds, DMD

Dawn S. Reynolds, DMD

85 Professional Park Rd Clinton

864.938.6002

www.rfdentistry.com

Shag Night!

With Pat Patterson

The Lumberyard on March 9th

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM!



Join us for Shag Night at The Lumberyard – an evening of rhythm, groove, and timeless dance moves! Whether you're a seasoned shagger or looking to learn, our vibrant atmosphere, great music, and friendly crowd create the perfect setting.

the hoops of federal and state preservation regulations – don't be surprised if they want you to cover up or paint the original brick, that gives the place so much character, or paint the rear, handicapped ramp entrance white from the original stained wood. Just roll with it.

"We did a good job getting tax credits because this is a historical and abandoned building. The contractor took 7 months, and we opened at the end of March, 2023," Charlie said. "Our anniversary is March 25 and our big event will be April 15. We will have a Beer Mile (a flyer on The Lumberyard door explains what that is and how to register, proceeds to the Friends of Whitten Center). We also want to have an oyster roast like the Chamber."

So, what's ahead? Charlie says the merchants' association might petition for the Main Street USA program – "we need people to bring money and investments." Clinton needs more rooftops, investments, and industry, he says. Sometimes it takes someone from the outside – the Michaels came to the Lake Greenwood-Waterloo area in 2016 and connected with 864CrossFit in 2021 – to bring in a new perspective, while respecting heritage. (As an aside, Charlie says the growth along the Laurens County side of Lake Greenwood is "incredible to watch" – for right now, they are more than content in their quiet spot near the Todd Quarters Bridge.)

Without new investments, for people who have businesses here now, "you reach the point where the bucket is full; we need new businesses where the owners do not live off the income, (for them) it's a fun project."

And, he adds, "Anything we can do (because) the people have been so supportive of us. The support of the community has been more than we expected, which is good." - Vic MacDonald

<https://www.facebook.com/thelumberyardsc/>



Tanning, Gifts, Apparel, Greek, Baby, and More!

107 E Main St Clinton

(864) 833-0044



Want better interest? CDs are a safe bet.

7 month¹
4.55 APY²

11 month¹
4.65 APY²

Contact me to earn more on your savings with competitive Certificate of Deposit (CD) rates from U.S. Bank.



Matt Davis Ins and Fin Svc
Agent

906 South Broad Street, Suite B
Clinton, SC 29325-2866
Bus: 864-833-5036
Cell: 864-529-8465
matt.davis.mtwo@statefarm.com

Rates effective as of May 10, 2023. CD specials require a \$1,000 minimum opening deposit up to a maximum of \$250,000. Subject to certain conditions and qualifications. Deposit products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.

1. Offer good for the initial term only. CD is automatically renewed for the same term. The rate is determined based on the published rate for the CD, excluding CD Specials, that is closest to but not exceeding the term of the CD. Advertised rate and APY are offered at the bank's discretion and may change daily.

2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) assumes principal and interest remain on deposit for the term of the certificate. All interest payments for the APY will be made at the end of the term or annually, whichever occurs first. Penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees could reduce earnings on the account.

State Farm and the State Farm logo are registered trademarks of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company.

Walter Todd, Sr.

Hall of Fame ambassador for golf

SC Golf Hall of Famer Walter Todd Sr. of Laurens is in agreement with the statement that Laurens County can be considered one of the state's golf destinations.

But, wait! What? In a state dominated by golf in Myrtle Beach and far neighbor to the east Horry County, now one of the fastest growing counties in the nation? In a state where Aiken and Camden actually are building golf courses? Yes, Laurens County has the very challenging Musgrove Mill Golf Club and Lakeside Country Club and, within an easy driving distance, the Ninety Six National Golf Course. Rolling S in Waterloo also is in that mix, but it has been closed by its private owner.

Todd said Musgrove Mill honed his golf skills – “especially in the fall when the greens get good and fast” – and Lakeside was his introduction to a golf game that has earned him multiple tournament wins. (See accompanying article.)

“At Lakeside we would jump in the pool, play 9 holes, and jump back in the pool,” Todd said. “I would caddy for my dad and older brothers. I loved golf season.”

In his 20s, Todd said he began to get competitive at golf, and although he says he has lost a step or two, golf remains a sports-through-the-ages with Mid-Am that used to start at 30 now 25, 55-65 seniors and in some states that starting age is 50, and Legends at age 70.

Todd said Lakeside had a lot of great players and really good facilities. “It was a great place to grow up.”

And, he added, “Musgrove elevated my game.”

“We have a world class golf club here in Laurens County. I've played a good bit of golf at Musgrove.”

That was when Todd was in his mid- to late-40s and early 50s, “which is unusual for most people, but I had my best years in these years, and the record bears that out. My dad was a 1 or 2 handicap – I never had a lesson in my life. That was better for me or I would think too much. If I had a lesson, it would be too technical, and



that would not work for me.”

Today, Todd keeps his hand in the game as representative for 10 golf companies, representing their products at trade shows. His son, Walt Todd Jr., a champion golfer in his own right, goes to the shows his dad can't attend. They are independent representatives working one hundred percent on commission. Walt, nephew Thomas and others formed the nucleus of State Championship teams at Laurens Academy.

“I have known people since junior golf, so I figured that would give me business. No. You have to earn it.”



Memories of golf are “dear to me,” Todd said, as his dad who introduced him to the game passed away in 2000, and sons Walt, starting at age 9, and Neal, starting at age 7, have picked up the game. “You need to start young. It's easier to pick up.”

“I have never wanted to be anywhere other than Laurens County. When I'm somewhere else, I'm ready to get back.”

The future of golf is brighter now, Todd said. The 2008-09 recession saw golf courses, especially on The Grand Strand, sold to become housing developments. But now, golf is back especially in “horse country” Aiken and Camden. “They are building courses,” Todd said. “It seems to be going well. I hope it continues.”

- Vic MacDonald

Sue Ellen Holmes Photo, left

Walter Todd, PC Class of '82 is still teeing them off after a long amateur career that earned him a spot in the S.C. Golf Association Hall of Fame.

Presbyterian College alumnus and former Blue Hose golfer Walter Todd '82 was inducted this month into the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame.

The Laurens native was enshrined in the hall at the S.C. Golf Association's 20th annual Golf Day on Jan. 13 in Columbia.

“I'd be less than forthright if I said it's not one of the greatest honors of my life,” Todd said. “Golf has been a big part of my life – maybe more than it should have been – but it is something that has always

been dear to me.”

Todd's influence on the game at the state and local level is profound. During an amateur career that spans nearly four decades, he has claimed nine Musgrove Mill Club championships, seven SCGA Four-Ball titles, an SCGA Mid-Amateur championship in 2005, a Carolinas Golf Association Mid-Amateur title in 2007, three father-son titles with his sons and a 2019 Senior Azalea Championship. Three times in recent years, Todd has also been named Senior Player of the Year by the SCGA.

At the national and international levels, Todd claimed the 2017 Senior Jones Cup title in 2017 and competed in the U.S. Mid-Amateur, the British Senior Amateurs, and the U.S. Senior Amateurs, where he advanced to the quarterfinals in 2019.

Off the course, Todd served on the CGA board for 13 years, including a term as president in 2010-11. He and his family have been the title sponsor of the S.C. Junior Golf Association Thomas D. Todd All-Stars Championship since 2007 to honor their late father.

Todd began his collegiate career at Wofford College before transferring to PC to play for former golf and football head coach John Perry. But the origins of his love for the game began much earlier – as far back as he can remember, Todd said.

“I've played golf my whole life,” he said. “I remember being out at Lakeside Country Club in Laurens at age five or six hitting balls around.”

Most athletes today specialize in one sport, but Todd enjoyed playing a variety of sports all year round – football, basketball, and baseball – for Laurens District High School. But long after his careers in those sports ended, golf – and the love of it – remained.

“Maybe it was good for me to play other sports because I didn't get burned out on golf,” Todd said. “It also helped me learn to be part of a team and allowed me to enjoy competition. I still love to compete. I still want to win as much today as I ever did.”

Competition in golf, though, is never only against other players, and Todd said he continues to battle against his fiercest adversary – his lowest score.

“No two days on the course are ever the same,” he said. “If you think something's going to work for you or you think you've got it all figured out, you really don't.

Todd, Back Page



**ATTEND
USC UNION
LAURENS LOCATION
TUITION FREE**

**SCAN TO
LEARN MORE**



(864) 681-1456



uscunion.sc.edu



coone@mailbox.sc.edu



600 Peachtree Street, Clinton SC



LAURENS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #56

Where students become ethical and productive citizens by achieving excellence, embracing innovation, and forging new traditions.



Vision

Laurens County School District 56 - Where a community of learners achieves excellence, embraces innovations, and forges new traditions.

Highlights

- Full day 4k Program
- Community Partner with the LCCT
- 2022-2023 SCHSL 3A Baseball State Champions
- Recognized "Best Middle School" (CMS) and "Best Elementary School" (CES) by US News and World Report
- CES, JWES, EES all received an overall "GOOD" rating on the State Report
- CMS Science Olympiads are 19 TIME State Champions
- CHS Science Olympiads are 12 TIME State Champions



Slogan

The Experience Matters

**~Constancy of Purpose~
All students will graduate
college and career ready.**



**100 Old Colony Road, Clinton, SC
864•833•0800 | www.lcds56.org**

Fay Sprouse

Music opens education's doors of the mind

Retiring School District 51 Superintendent Fay Sprouse never played in a marching band – she credits her propensity for being “an accident waiting to happen” with that fact – but she loves to SEE a marching band, marveling at its precision.

Same with a chorus.

“I love to see people raise their voices in praise,” she says.

That lifelong dedication to the arts merits her the distinction of being named an Honor Administrator of the South Carolina Band Directors' Association.

For Ware Shoals Band Director Christie Hodge, the nomination was a no-brainer. After the award presentation this month, Hodge (left in photo at right) wrote:

Today (Feb. 10) was such a great day! Thank you, SCMEA Executive Board, for honoring our Superintendent, Dr. Sprouse, as an Honor Administrator. Dr. Sprouse's commitment to ALL of our students, but specifically the arts students, is immeasurable. Never in 17 years have I come to her with a need and she hasn't found some way to fill it. Not one single time. Her door is always open and her kind spirit always makes me smile.

It is not lost on me that not every district is as wonderful as mine. When we talk about fantastic administrators, we have DEPTH in our district. They are all supportive, kind and student-centered. I mentioned to Dr. Sprouse today how well all of our students were taken care of. Math teachers don't want for calculators, and if an ELA teacher wants a class set of books, we order them.

This is rare. It's not unheard of, but it is rare. All of our admin make teacher and student support a priority, and that creates a culture of excellence and a productive work environment where teachers love coming to work.

It's all led by the best, Dr. Sprouse, and I will miss her so much when she retires at the end of this year. I'm so glad that she received a well-deserved accolade today.



(NOTE: The Million Dollar Band of Ware Shoals High School finished 4th at the State Championships, Oct. 28, 2023.)

Sprouse humbly accepts the award but deflects all the credit. She says the Ware Shoals schools' teachers and staff are responsible for an atmosphere where all students feel welcomed

and included. The district is tucked away in the upper eastern corner of Greenwood County and the upper western corner of Laurens County, right by Hwy 25 that runs right up to Simpsonville, with a picturesque river running through it and the majestic Katherine Hall in the center of town. Sprouse attended first grade in the building that now is the district's administrative office – she is gradually packing her office to leave the position at the end of this school year.

She will have plenty to do, handling music direction at two local churches, honing her karaoke skills on a machine she

bought for herself and her husband this past Christmas. “Back in the day, we used to sing karaoke at Inn on the Square. Ow! I guess I shouldn't have said that.”

She began playing piano at

age 7-8 and organ at age 4-5 as part of a plan of succession for her mother as a church musician. Like we said, Fay has never been in a band – her family's life in the rural area made getting back into town for rehearsals a challenge – but she and Hodge teamed up for a performance of the haunting ballad “Hallelujah” by the late Leonard

Cohen with the WSHS concert band at a winter concert.

“Music is so important to academics,” Sprouse said. “It develops new paths to the brain. It is really like a foreign language, symbols become letters and then the physical embodiment. With organ, you play with your hands and feet and head. It is a different type of brain activity. And in marching band, you have to play from memory and march.”

At times, Sprouse has had to play the organ with her hands and feet, and direct the choir with her head. It's the kind of “necessity is the mother of invention” attitude embodied in the Ware Shoals school district.

“Christie and (husband) Mark fix instruments. Band is our biggest extra-curricular activity and Christie has developed that pipeline of students that is so important to a successful program. I am proud of her and them, and there is nothing like band parents. They are the worker bees.”

The district provides band instruments, and Sprouse credits her colleague Dan Crockett for making that happen through grant funds. The students take ownership of their instruments and there is a classroom set of instruments, “so they can practice at home and here.”

“They work and they practice, and that's how they get good. They open up to all, everyone who has a need to belong. They welcome you.”

Early on in her superintendency, Sprouse saw the need for band instruments, so the district reached out to an alum, Tom Martin, who has a vast Rolodex of music contacts. Through that partnership, they got the music program off the ground by starting a “Band Aid” campaign.

“The kids need to feel like they belong,” Sprouse said. “Our theme is ‘Destination Graduation.’ For that to happen, somebody has to be their someone.”

And, sometimes, that takes teachers out of their comfort zones. Navigating those challenges is what being a superintendent is all about.

“I have challenged the faculty – ‘You’re going to be that person’” for at least one student.

For this spring semester, the district’s middle school students staged a very successful Stroke Awareness Day, alerting students on what to look for if their teacher, their parent, even their classmate shows signs of a brain-heart attack. You can read a really good article about this in the Index-Journal online.

Next month, Ware Shoals is going to honor women’s softball mentor-extraordinaire Mickey Davis with a field dedication at the high school. At age 82, Davis is Sprouse’s best friend. Legendary Oklahoma University Coach, Patty Gasso, started her college coaching career with Davis, at Long Beach City College, and considers her an influential mentor. Coach Gasso has achieved seven national championships at OU, so far, earning the nickname “7 Natty Patty.”

On her desk, Sprouse has a thank-you-note-in-progress to Gasso for the coach’s donation to the “Mickey Davis Field” at Ware Shoals High School.

As she reaches her 40th year in public education, Sprouse admits, “As of now, I don’t have a plan. God will put me where He wants me to be, maybe part time where I can use my skills.”

She has a guest-teacher’s lesson plan in the formative stages. Fay is a big fan of pop-up books – her favorites coming from the imagination of Robert Sabuda, sometimes in collaboration with Matthew Rinehart, and some from other authors; most are re-tellings of fairy tales, which carry life lessons, or other stories. Sometimes they’re original works. She has a pop up for the story “We’re going on a bear hunt” – most of the students who travel through Ware Shoals schools are exposed to it at least once. When they graduate, on the bus ride from the front of the high school to the football stadium adjoining building where they emerge and walk down a vast flight of stairs and landings, Fay Sprouse stands before them and reads it, one last time.

“We go on one last bear hunt.”

So, if there are any elementary teachers out there who want an English teacher to conduct a fascinating lesson in what makes books “pop up” – and believe me, she has a large, plastic box full - and why that visual element drives home the lesson of the words, look no further than the superintendent’s office at School District 51’s administration building, attached to Ware Shoals High School. Look there, this spring, at least for a little while.

(E-mail: fsprouse@gwd51.org) - Vic MacDonald

“There will always be those who feel more comfortable not venturing from the warmth of the hearth, but there are those who prefer to look out the window and wonder what is beyond the horizon.” — Jimmy Buffett



**MAIN STREET
BAKE SHOPPE**

Bake Your Day!

with our *NEW* Hot Dog and Cheeseburger Melts

104 W Main St, Clinton (864) 358-2100

People never forget being in a band.
People never forget being in a choir.
People never forget being in an orchestra. You never forget the music, friendships, feelings, concerts, laughter, emotion, or the sense of belonging. There’s nothing like making music with other people.

Vaughan Fleischfresser



245 Human Services Road · Clinton, SC 29325

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Call for an appointment

864.833.0017

GOOD SHEPHERD
FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

The Good Shepherd Free Medical Clinic of Laurens County is an interdenominational Christian mission providing free medical care, medications, and pastoral support to Laurens County residents who are without government assistance, private insurance, or the financial resources to afford such care.

Keiana Greene-Page

How a reporter becomes an author

Book Description

Say hello to Clucky, the curious chick from Farmer Tommy's farm! When the coop door is left open, Clucky can't resist exploring. Join him on a fun-filled adventure that teaches us all there's no place like home. Great for kids and adults, this whimsical tale is a must-read. Don't miss out—discover Clucky's world today!

I have a confession to make: Clucky Comes Home isn't my first children's book. I actually wrote, illustrated and self-published a book when I was about 6 or 7 years old. Haha!

Ok.. this book wasn't much of a book at all. It looked more like a homemade pamphlet. I don't recall the name of my first book, but I do remember the subject matter. It was a book about how to grow a houseplant (a skill I didn't master until the COVID-19 quarantine). The pages were made from typing paper and the cover was made of green construction paper. I don't remember many other details about that book, but I do remember the sense of accomplishment I experienced when my mom helped me make it.

Today, I feel this same sense of pride as I celebrate the completion of Clucky Comes Home. Much like mastering the art of growing the plants I wrote about as a kid, publishing your first "adult book" is also a multi-step process:

Step 1: You must plant a seed.

Realizing that I could write my own stories planted a seed for my future.

Step 2: You must give your plants light (and water.)

That seed was fed by my parents, grandparents, babysitters and teachers who spent time reading to me as well as teaching me how to read, write and later type. The adults in my life also helped to ensure my writing seed received plenty of light by taking me to the library and bookstore.

Step 3: You must be patient.

My love of writing followed me throughout my life. I captioned many of my family photo albums. I wrote for my high school and college newspapers. I also began my career as a news reporter. However, my dream of writing a children's book didn't fully mature until well into my adulthood. And the wait has been well worth it.

XOXO, Keiana

Do you remember your favorite book from your childhood?

I remember enjoying a number of books as a child, but One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Suess was my favorite. This beginner book still actually makes me smile today.

Not only did I enjoy hearing the book's whimsical rhyming words and looking at its colorful illustrations, but I always got a kick out of the questions Dr. Seuss encouraged young readers to ask their parents. For example: "Why are they sad and glad and bad? I do not know. Go ask your dad."

These questions made me comfortable with asking questions, even when I believed they were silly. One Fish, Two Fish also gave me permission to imagine the who, what, and why details of the characters' lives.

Now that I'm an author, I hope that Clucky Comes Home has the same impact on today's young readers. From being the star of a rodeo to soaring with hawks, this book is full of colorful illustrations that push the boundaries of what can happen in the life of an ordinary chicken. Honestly, I feel excited when a picture of Clucky makes me giggle, because allowing ourselves to have the freedom to be silly unlocks a world of possibilities.

Think about it: the first sketches for the Wright Brothers flying machine had to be very funny to someone.

I hope Clucky's daydreams (no matter how big they seem) encourage future generations to think outside the box, too.

Keiana

Keiana Greene-Page became an author in elementary school, when she would write and illustrate her own books out of construction paper instead of doing her school work.

She is a proud graduate of Benedict College in Columbia, SC, an award-winning former journalist, and a fighter for social and economic justice. When she's not writing, Keiana enjoys reading, making art, and eating chocolate chip cookies — which she does not share, much to the dismay of her dog, Marley.

A Clinton Chronicle reporter for 2 years starting in 2006, the experience - covering local government, being an advocate for the community - helped prepare her for her current career with a labor union for service employees. Her boss, Larry Franklin, in introducing her book in a Facebook post, said, "Some of y'aka will remember when Keiana worked at The Chronicle. I'm proud of her."

Benedict College Grad Lives Out Childhood Dream by Publishing First Children's Book -- Keiana Greene-Page encourages young readers and adults to dream big with "Clucky Comes Home"

WASHINGTON, D.C. - When other children were focused on learning math in elementary school, Keiana Greene-Page recalls sneaking to write and illustrate her own books out of construction paper at her desk in her SC classroom. Today, the Washington, D.C., resident is celebrating the release of her first self-published children's book "Clucky Comes Home." The title is being released under Greene-Page's start-up publishing company Power

L&L OFFICE SUPPLY, INC

"Every item for the Office"

**GIVE US A CHANCE TO KEEP
YOU LOCAL!**



123 Fleming Street
Laurens, SC 29360
Tel: (864) 984-2521
Fax: (864) 984-6223

114 North Broad Street
Clinton, SC 29325
Tel: (864) 833-2521
Fax: (864) 833-1085

WILSON'S



SNACK BAR

"Best Cheeseburger in Town"

210 West Main St. Clinton
(864)833-3227

Mon.-Thurs.
9am - 3pm

Fri.
9am-6pm



Communications LLC. “My love of writing followed me throughout my life. I even remember the first book I made when I was 6 or 7 years old,” says Greene-Page. “I wrote for my high school and college newspapers. I also began my career as a newspaper reporter. However, I struggled to fulfill my dream of writing a children’s book throughout the years.”

She found her inspiration for her new book during a conversation with her dad who raises chickens and horses in the PeeDee region.

“My dad told me about finding a chicken on his front porch that had been lost for about a year. After we talked, I started asking myself ‘Why would a chicken run away from home, and what would it be doing as a runaway?!’ I just started writing on one of my days off from work and “Clucky Comes Home” was born,” says Greene-Page.

Her imaginative, whimsical story follows the misadventures of Clucky, a cool teen-agerish chicken, who dreams about what his life would be like outside of Farmer Tommy’s chicken coop. When the coop door is left open, Clucky can’t resist running away to pursue his fantasy life, but quickly learns that there’s no place like home. The heart-warming tale has beautiful and comical illustrations depicting Clucky, his family and friends, and Farmer Tommy.

Greene-Page hopes that Clucky Comes Home will be one of many books from her company whose mission is to empower young people through imaginative storytelling and help foster a lifelong love of reading through our books. A proud graduate of Benedict College, Greene-Page says, Power Communications will also prioritize uplifting marginalized voices and values through motivational stories. For more information, visit powercomms.org.



“The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change.” — Maya Angelou



DISCOVER NEW HORIZONS WITH OUR TIRES.

**614 MUSGROVE ST • CLINTON
(864) 833-4977**



**CLINTON
DISCOUNT PHARMACY**

We Care... For A Better Tomorrow

**YOUR HEALTH HAS BEEN OUR PRIORITY FOR 10 YEARS!
THANK YOU CLINTON!**

202 N BROAD STREET • CLINTON • 864-387-7151

Laurens Academy

This is who we have always been

Whew! Where do we start?

How about the post-Covid enrollment boom? No? Well, how about girls' basketball - again - winning varsity and middle school Region Championship Tournaments? No, again? How about the fact that a portable "that's old as Methuselah" is being replaced with a brand new classroom building to accommodate that enrollment boom?

No, again? Well, you're taxing our patience here. How about the fact that they teach, and will never stop teaching, the "old people's code" - cursive writing.

And the reason is simple - "The Declaration of Independence is written in cursive, and you need to know how to read it," says Lisa Kirk, in her Laurens Academy office with husband, and Headmaster, Todd Kirk, sitting nearby - wondering if the next heavy rain is going to cause him to have to dig another ditch, like he had to do on an especially rainy day this month.

It was raining so hard that the seniors driving to school, and parking where they were told in a far-off gravel lot, basically were stranded - and Todd fired up the activity bus to load them up and move them to class, relatively dry. Some of them wanted to walk in the rain. You know how teenagers are.

This, and so much more, is daily life at Laurens Academy, where enrollment has blossomed from the 190s to currently 310 students, in

K4-12th grade on the same campus. They are so busy that Todd has been in contact with the state highway department - if they don't configure a turning lane in and out of the school on Hwy 49, which connects I-26 and I-385, somebody is going to get seriously hurt.

It has not happened yet. But truckers who use this route are accustomed to seeing parents and teens "turn out in front of them" as they pass the school. Of course, they're not. It's just the difference between a vehicle traveling 60 and a vehicle, after the driver looks both ways twice, pulling away from a dead stop. Another concern is sometimes the school has early release meaning the flashing school-zone lights are not on yet.

Still, with all the challenges, the Kirks wouldn't have it any other way. They - the long-supporting parents and the newbies, the students and staff - are building yet another generation of American, and in many cases Foreign-Exchange students, in an education founded on Christian values.

They actually got a boost from COVID. They used "common sense" and did not shut down. They heard the concerns from parents who, because of remote learning, likely for the first time, experienced what their children were being taught. They continued their consistent message - we are not for everyone, but we could be what you are looking for.

Their vision is for the elementary - K4 through 5th - to be on one end of



the campus, and junior high through high school to be on the other end. Logistics won't let that happen right now, but it is in the planning. Lisa says that grouping would enhance the teachers' "vertical planning" so that each grade's lessons connect to the grade above, so you are moving students through your school with a consistent purpose - learning the fundamentals and facts in early grades, applying critical thinking and logic in the upper grades.

Keep in mind, all this has to work with a core mission in mind: keep the class sizes small.

"Covid brought people to us," Todd says. "We stayed open. We were rebellious." "Perceived as being rebellious," Lisa chimes in. "Ninety-five percent of parents with kids in school said, 'We don't want to see masks,'" Todd said. "They were right."

The pandemic subsided, even as schools and gathering places now have to be mindful of new strains, the plain-old flu, and the new illness, RSV. Keeping the students self-contained is a common sense approach to dealing with these challenges, the Kirks say.

Athletically, as the talent levels of the athletes ebb and flow, girls' athletics is on the upswing right now. Todd says 9 of the last 10 years volleyball has been in the mix for a state championship, and girls' basketball has won the last two championships and played for the last four, in the state's independent schools' league.

"Girls' athletics has blossomed," Todd says. "At one time 85 percent of our students participated in athletics; that's 70-80 percent now." The number is down because the enrollment is up, cutting the ratio of student athletes to non-student athletes. The increased opportunities for girls to have year-round play is one reason for the blossoming, Lisa Kirk says, "it was usually with boys, but now there is more for girls, volleyball especially."

With a background in exercise science, Lisa says it is important for athletes to branch out and challenge themselves; in different sports, "they use different muscle groups."

Todd says it's not science, it's teen psychology - "It keeps their feet moving."

In the classroom, Laurens Academy is maintaining its classical education approach. "Public schools reflect society," Lisa Kirk says. "We are who we are, if parents want this type of education. We look at what colleges want."

Chapel is offered and encouraged. The mornings start with prayer. "We've never been not that," Lisa says.

So, what's the down side now? "I'm around here a little more. They have to put up with me," says Todd, who has surrendered his head coaching duties despite extensive experience as a player and college coach. Before, he was running things on the field; Lisa was running things in the office.

"I think he would rather be out there on the field, than digging ditches to fight the rain," Lisa says. Still, Todd says football was a challenge,



For Youth Development
For Healthy Living
For Social Responsibility

100 YMCA Drive · Clinton · (864) 833-9622

LA = Educating the whole child

coming at the beginning of the school year when everything needs to start settling in.

In addition to a new classroom building and additions at the baseball diamond, LA has purchased the former Laurens County Disabilities & Special Needs Board building on Hwy 14, intending to convert it into an international house for 16 Brazilian students coming from a Japanese couple's missionary group. It is part of the school's long-standing commitment to host students from China and many other countries.

The Kirks are looking forward to moving teachers and students into their new classroom building before the end of this school year. On the other end of the campus, the Crusaders' baseball diamond is undergoing new construction, also fueled by a donor.

The Kirks haven't even gone into the new classroom building to check out the progress. They trust the contractor and they have made all the decisions (wall paint, flooring, etc.) and they've rolled with the punches - two fire extinguishers at each end of the hall instead of one in the middle complying with the one-ever-75-foot requirement. They want to see the building as students will see it - classrooms decorated by their teachers.

The way space is at Laurens Academy, they couldn't get rid of the old portable that has housed many generations of students, which sat right where the new classroom building sits now. They had to move

it. Long story short, that was an ordeal. If they picked it up with a crane, it's going to fall apart. If they put it on a trailer, it has to bump over a curb to get out onto the road, and it's going to fall apart. Moving it by the road was decided as the method, while the Kirks were at Hilton Head. Board Chairman Andy Howard was onsite to supervise the move - and it worked. The old building was tougher than it looked. Once it was underpinned and bathrooms were reconnected, it was ready for the 2024 school year, which will be its last.

The building's next home is with a logging company that will place it somewhere else if it survives an even longer move. "God bless the teachers that have been out there all those years," Lisa says.

It's a tough thing to think about - when the portable is gone. It came over from Todd Memorial in 1997. Land grading will be done; there will be a gentle slope going down toward a brand new classroom building; there will be grass along a long driveway to the upper parking area. The Kirks envision it as "a beautiful setting."

They will linger for just a moment when ALL THAT work is done, and reflect, and say a little prayer of "thank you" - then, realty will return. They will energize back into work - they will have to - because just as Todd Kirk looks at a well-oiled offense, he knows about the Laurens Academy Crusaders, "We're Rolling!"

- Vic MacDonald



An advertisement for Hustler Country. It features a person sitting on a yellow riding mower. The text "HUSTLER COUNTRY" is written in large white letters. Below it, "LET'S RIDE" is written in a large, bold, white font inside a black box with a yellow border. The Hustler logo is in the top right corner. At the bottom, it says "KING'S OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT" and "28825 HIGHWAY 76 EAST / (864) 833-1979".

An advertisement for AZ QUOTES. It features a black and white portrait of William Faulkner. To the left of the portrait, the quote "You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage to lose sight of the shore." is written in white text. Below the quote, it says "- William Faulkner". The AZ QUOTES logo is in the bottom left corner.

An advertisement for The Vestibule Coffee & Tea. The top part says "The VESTIBULE" in large, bold, black letters, with "Coffee & Tea" written below it. Below the text is a row of six images showing different coffee drinks: a green smoothie, an iced coffee, a latte with a dusting of powder, a latte, a smoothie with green fruit, and a coffee with a dusting of powder. At the bottom, it says "864.547.2326 • 310B East Carolina Ave • Clinton" and shows a row of six coffee cups.



MORSE at Clinton High School - Hauptfear Photography, Clinton, South Carolina

“Wide horizons lead the soul to broad ideas; circumscribed horizons engender narrow ideas; this sometimes condemns great hearts to become small-minded. Broad ideas hated by narrow ideas, this is the very struggle of progress.” – Victor Hugo

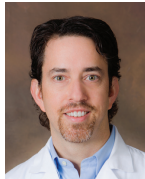
Coming in the **March 6** Clinton Chronicle, more signs of progress: School District 56 sponsored a ribbon-cutting and reception Monday afternoon for the new Conference Center, 100 Legion Dr., Clinton (the former American Legion Hut) & the regular monthly meeting of the District 56 Board of Trustees following an executive session. The District promised that it would be “celebrating some exciting news!”. Joanna-Woodson Elementary made the school presentation, and Special Recognitions were made for BETA Club Convention Awards, Scripps Spelling Bee Awards, U.S. News and World Report School & Spirit of 56. The next board meeting will be March 25, at the Conference Center.



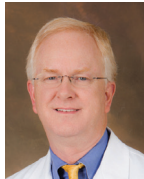
{ Healthcare. Connected. }

The right care at the right time.

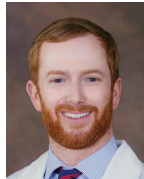
Family Healthcare Clinton
(864) 833-5986



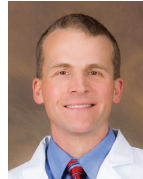
Peter M. Partee, M.D.



Louis M. Stephens, Jr., M.D.



Dillard Stephens, D.O.



Stanley G. Walsh, Jr., M.D.

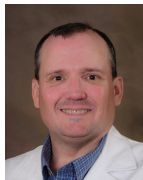


Jacquelyn B. Waldron, FNP

Internal Medicine
Laurens
(864) 833-0055



Brian Weirick, D.O.



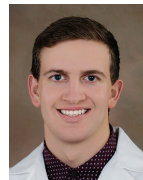
William L. Miller, M.D.



Brittany Roman, APRN



Steve Pietrusza, PA



Ross LeClair, PA.

Express Medical Care Laurens (Urgent Care)
(864) 939-1070

Offering primary, specialty and urgent care to treat all of your family's needs.

Specialty Services:
Counseling Services
Home Health Services
Mobile Mammography Unit
Occupational Health Services
Orthopedics
Physiatry
Physical Therapy
Pulmonology

Spine
Urology

Laurens Specialty Medical Office Services:
Cardiology
General Surgery
OB/GYN
Vascular

SELF REGIONAL
HEALTHCARE

SELF MEDICAL CENTER
LAURENS

22580 Highway 76 East
Laurens, SC 29360

selfregional.org

Todd/Golf

Things change every day and there are no guarantees. It's like I told my sons when they started playing. The better you get, the lower your scores are going to be, but you'll still have some bad days. They happen in golf where you have bad runs or spurts. But I still love playing even when I'm not playing well.

"I've said this for awhile – you don't know how many good seasons you have left. I started playing senior golf at 55, which was a lot of fun playing against people I played junior golf with through the years. If you're playing basketball or football, you're generally not going to be able to play competitively into your 60s or 70s. But I've seen guys who were playing golf well into their 70s and 80s who just love the game and being outside and hitting the ball."

Todd said competing with his sons in amateur events adds another layer of joy to the game, as is embracing the sport as metaphor.

"As in life, you just take it one shot at a time," he said. "I know it's a cliché, but you have to forget the bad shots. Everybody's going to hit them, I don't care if you're Tiger Woods or Jack Nicklaus."

For Hall of Famer Walter Todd, it is obvious he kept the bad shots to a minimum – with a lot of practice and a lot of support.

"I am very thankful for my wife, Lynne, and my family for their support throughout my career," he said. "I've tried to keep my faith and my family as a top priority even while I spend a lot of time with the game. I could not have done it without their support."

- Presbyterian College News