Students need CPR class to graduate

By ARIEL GILREATH
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South Carolina high school students will now be required to take a class on CPR and AED awareness in order to graduate in 2018.

The legislation, called Ronald Rouse’s Law, was introduced in honor of a high school football player from Hartsville who collided on the field and died in 2012.

The legislation doesn’t specify which students must be CPR certified, which would require more training, nor that they must take a class.

Nancy Moore, director of nursing in Greenwood County School District 50, said students in ninth and 12th grade in the district will take a one-hour class taught by a certified CPR instructor next year.

The district will focus on utilizing ninth and 12th-grade students for three years, and then the class will only be offered to ninth-graders.

“Hands-only,” Moore said. “It means you’re not going to be doing any breathing. You’re just going to do hands-only CPR.”

Traditionally, CPR training has included breathing into the patient’s mouth, but Moore said the American Heart Association has focused more on chest compressions in recent years.

Students can only opt out of the class if they’ve already taken a class or if a parent sends a letter to the district, which must be approved by the superintendent.

But Moore said she hopes students will take the class even if they’ve had CPR training.

“If you’ve already had it, you don’t have to take it again, and some people may have — if you’re a lifeguard or something like that, you may have already taken it. And that’s when you might opt out,” Moore said.

Moore said the AHA is one of the few organizations that make a hands-only CPR class.

See CLASS, page 4A

Pedaling and reflecting on life

By JON HOLLOWAY
For the Index-Journal

Greenwood businessman and photographer Jon Holloway and daughter Annie left Greenwood in early June, flew to Washington and began a cross-country bike trip.

Here, Jon shares some of the experience, written while the companions made their way across Lake Erie to resume their trek to Maine.

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