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# THE LORIS SCENE

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## Students have mixed opinions about plexiglass

BY KATIE POWELL  
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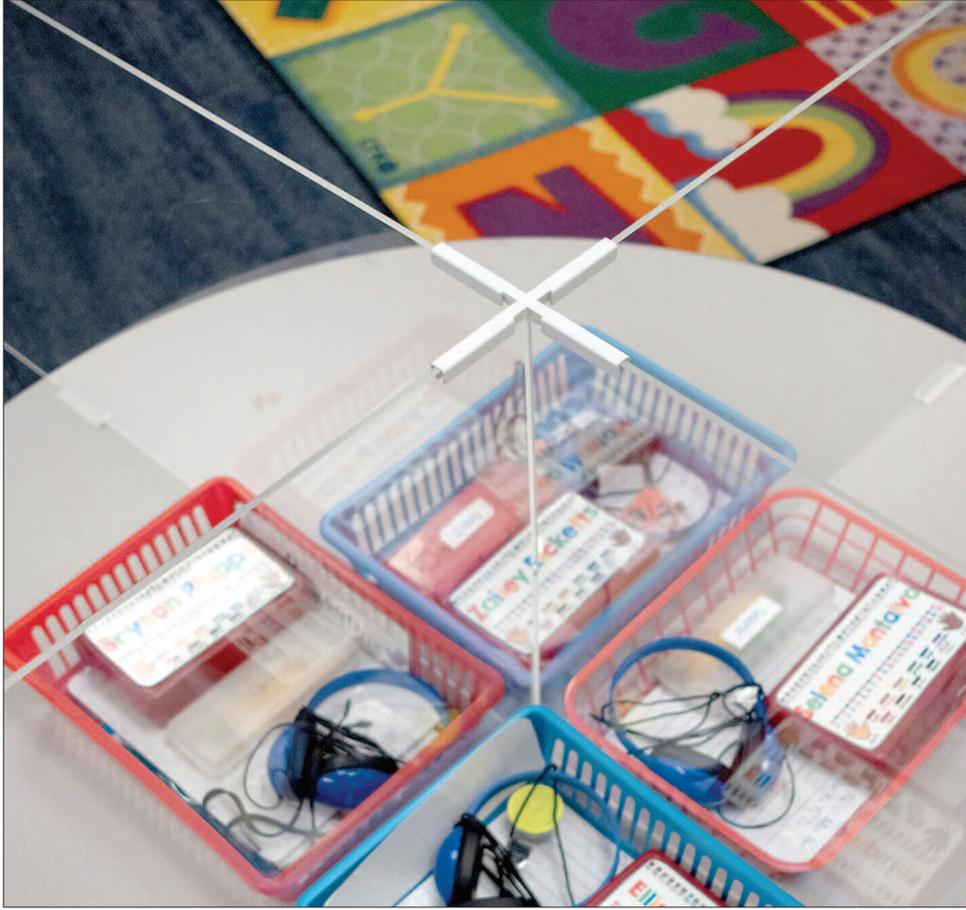
As Horry County Schools moves closer to five-day, face-to-face instruction for all grade levels, most district schools have completed plexiglass installations.

Students have mixed opinions about it. "I don't necessarily agree with the plexiglass. I believe there's no need for it," said Emma Sansbury, a junior at the Academy for the Arts, Science and Technology. "However, I know that the district has the students' best interest at heart and is just trying to get us back into school full time."

HCS Chief of Support Services Daryl Brown said the plexiglass at North Myrtle Beach High School and Loris High School would be completed in a few days, and they plan to have all high schools and academies finished before the end of the month.

At least one petition is circulating via HCS parent Justin Yarbrough asking the district to remove the plexiglass, saying it's only a recommendation from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, not a requirement.

"These poor kids need normalcy not more self-imposed restrictions and especially not cages," Yarbrough said in his peti-



JANET MORGAN / THE LORIS SCENE

PLEXIGLASS, A5 "They like having their own personal space, some called it their 'personal office,'" said Aynor Elementary School Principal Reggie Gasque in December of 2020. The school has had plexiglass in each classroom since Nov. 23.

## Loris High returns to five-day school schedule

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
INFO@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Loris High School will return to full-time, five-day learning on March 17, Horry County Schools announced Wednesday of this past week.

"Now that all elementary and middle schools provide five-day, face-to-face instruction, HCS will continue phasing the return to five-day, face-to-face instruction in our middle schools and then high schools," an HCS news release said.

"Parents will receive at the minimum a five-day calendar notice of this change."

Loris High was the final school in the Green Sea Floyds, North Myrtle Beach and Loris attendance areas to go back to a five-day schedule. HCS officials have been installing plexiglass in high schools and they hope to have all of that work completed by the end of this month.

Check [www.myhorrynews.com](http://www.myhorrynews.com) for updates.

## New Loris High principal returning to his roots

BY KATIE POWELL  
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Loris High School graduate Jimmy McCullough will be heading back to his roots when he becomes principal of LHS on July 1.

"I definitely look forward to doing my part in helping build community pride back in the school, giving the students the opportunity to graduate and be great citizens, and just being part of the Lions family [again]," McCullough said.



McCullough

McCullough has spent the last four years at the Horry County Education Center, now known as SOAR Academy. The new SOAR Academy building is set to open this fall.

"I tell anybody this has been the best job I have ever had," he said. "I know I'm going to miss that feeling of waking up in the morning eager to go to work and going to sleep at night, eager to wake up to go back to work. I'm going to miss the staff here."

He said it's a family culture at SOAR Academy, and while he will miss the camaraderie, he may miss the students even more.

"I am going to miss the smiling faces at school when they realize they have actually changed ... when the student

feels down on their luck but they hit their point of soaring and seeing how much they have changed," he said. "To see that spark in their eyes that they really believe and they never want to come back ... just to see the transformation of the kids."

McCullough grew up in Loris and graduated from LHS in 1998. Then he headed off to Georgia Southern University.

After graduation, he spent a year working in Atlanta and then came back to LHS for four years to teach business education as well as spend a year as a behavioral counselor.

Carolina Forest High School was his next stop. There he served as a teacher, coach, at-risk counselor and administrator. He then became assistant principal at Conway High School, where he spent five years before heading to the SOAR Academy.

While he doesn't have specific plans for his time as principal of LHS, he thinks previous principal Richard Crumley has done "a wonderful job" and McCullough hopes to build on the work Crumley began.

"I am reflecting back on some of my greatest times there at LHS," McCullough said. "That's the first thing I did when I knew I was going there, reflecting through old yearbooks and remembering what it was like to be a [student] athlete there."

McCullough and his wife, Regina, have three children and one godchild.

## Five young men are first residents of Oak Tree Farm

BY KATHY ROPP  
KATHY.ROPP@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Cody Lewis celebrated his 34th birthday Feb. 13, the same day he and four other young men became the first residents of the Oak Tree Farm, a residential community designed to give independence to people with special conditions.

"It was a good birthday gift for me," he said just three weeks after taking up residence in the first house at the village that organizers say will one day house 150 people with conditions ranging from autism to intellectual disabilities.

Also on Lewis' list of recent great blessings was starting a new job "kit building" at Chippewa Aerospace Group just two days later.

The young man had previously worked in a grocery store, but lost that job when the store closed. He sat home, where he lived with his parents, became discouraged and suffered from anxiety. His mom took him to a doctor who told him he just needed to get out of the house, Lewis said.

Oak Tree Farm provided the answer.

Now he's happy about being independent and loving his new home off Medlen



KATHY ROPP / THE LORIS SCENE

Lee Neathery and Cody Lewis, two of Oak Tree Farm's first five residents, show off the modern kitchen in this apartment.

Parkway.

"It's a good place to be on my own now," he said.

What is called the transitional house has two apartments; one houses two young men and the other has three residents. They can choose to socialize in a living room with a roommate(s) or go into their bedrooms to be alone.

The new house looks like a showroom for a modern furniture store. There is a large liv-

ing room, complete with sofa and two large inviting chairs; a dining area with a large table and several chairs; and a kitchen with modern appliances, even an air fryer, adequate cabinets and more.

Behind the kitchen is a huge utility room with a large washing machine and dryer.

Lewis has a second, but smaller television in his bed-

RESIDENTS, A3

### OUTSIDE



#### Weather

High 69, mostly cloudy

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Low 56, mostly cloudy

THURSDAY

High 75, mostly cloudy

FRIDAY

High 65, mostly sunny

SATURDAY

High 55, partly sunny

Loris First United Methodist Church, 3507 Broad St., has a Blessing Box available each Friday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. This box contains nonperishable food items and individuals in need are encouraged to come to the box. It is located inside the church.

Dogwood Hill Baptist Church Food Pantry, 1040 Mt. Zion Rd., Loris, has a food pantry the third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. "In accordance with Federal civil rights law and

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and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: USDA office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410. (2) Fax: 202-690-7442 or (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) This institution is an equal

opportunity provider. Salem Baptist Church, 4008 Salem Road in Aynor, has a Food Bank on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m.-noon. The mission: "We serve Christ when we serve people."

