

Wednesday
JULY 28, 2021

VOL 26, No. 43
843-756-1447

Waccamaw Publishers, Inc.
2510 Main St., Conway, SC 29526
Attn: Delivery

50¢



THE LORIS SCENE

Address Service Requested

POSTAL PATRON

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CONWAY, S.C.
PERMIT NO. 44

'Hoping to get back on track': State withholds over \$200K from Loris as city pushes to finish overdue audits

HANNAH STRONG OSKIN
HANNAH.OSKIN@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

State officials withheld more than \$200,000 from the city of Loris over the last five years because the city failed to obtain proper audits of its finances. Loris leaders have now hired a Georgetown accounting firm to begin auditing the city's financial records for the last five fiscal years, beginning with

fiscal year 2016-17. "We're hoping to get back on track, get those done because we have to," said Keith Massey, interim clerk for the city. This month, the city received its first invoice of \$5,000 from Harper, Poston & Moree, an accounting firm that the city hired in March to begin the auditing process. The firm is starting with the oldest records and will go year by year to the

"We're hoping to get back on track, get those done because we have to."

Keith Massey
City of Loris interim clerk

latest fiscal year in order to catch up. According to the agreement, invoices for fees will be issued monthly as work progresses. The agreement

only lists the 2016-17 fiscal year, meaning the city will have to approve further agreements to begin the process for auditing the fiscal years ending in 2018,

2019, 2020 and 2021. The city budgeted \$70,000 for the 2021-22 fiscal year to pay for auditor services, according to public records, though the city has no estimate for how much the entire process will cost. "It is very, very, very expensive to get this done," Massey said, adding that sometimes it costs more to do the audit than the amount being withheld by

the state. However, he said: "Is that good moral or good practice? No." The city hopes to "show the public that nothing wrong was done, that accidents happen, you have to make adjustments," Massey said. CPA Robin Poston, who is working on the audit, said it would be hard to put a timeline on how long the

AUDITS, A2

'ANYTHING FOR THE COWBOY': Incentives help western wear retailer expand in Loris

BY CHARLES D. PERRY
CHARLES.PERRY@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

In some ways, John Travolta spurred Rick Worley to success. Long before Worley opened Wild West of Myrtle Beach, Inc., he ran Worley's Department Store in downtown Tabor City, N.C. His store didn't even sell western wear until after the movie "Urban Cowboy" was released in 1980, starring a youthful Travolta. "When 'Urban Cowboy' came out, people started coming in wanting to know, 'Do you have any western wear?'" Worley said. "So we ended up picking up cowboy boots. [Then people asked] 'Well, you've got the boots. Do you have the shirts?' So we ended up picking up the shirts. Then we went to the second floor of that store and opened up a western store." The Worley family's western apparel business gradually expanded over the decades, and Wild West now includes two retail stores and recently added a 50,000-square-foot distribution center in Loris. State and local officials announced that the company would be hiring 40 workers over the next five years as part of the expansion of Wild West's ecommerce division. "It's interesting to see how it all evolved," said Austin Worley, Rick Worley's son and business partner. "There was



CHARLES PERRY / THE LORIS SCENE

WESTERN WEAR, A3 Dianne Hardwick sorts cowboy hats at Wild West of Myrtle Beach's Loris warehouse this past week.

No masks required for Horry County students this fall

BY KATIE POWELL
KATIE.POWELL@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Horry County Schools will not require students or employees to wear face masks on school property or on school buses this fall, according to the district. "Our masking protocols follow state law and are not subject to change,"

district spokeswoman Lisa Bourcier said. On Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics released a statement regarding school health and safety regarding masks, saying that their recommendation was that everyone older than age 2 should wear a mask in schools, regardless of vaccination status.

The reason? A large portion of the nation's students are not yet eligible for the vaccine, which is allowed to be given at age 12. "We need to prioritize getting children back into schools alongside their friends and their teachers — and we all play a role in making sure it happens safely," said Dr. Sonja O'Leary, chair of the AAP

Council on School Health, in the AAP statement. "The pandemic has taken a heartbreaking toll on children, and it's not just their education that has suffered but their mental, emotional and physical health. Combining layers of protection that include vaccinations, masking and clean hands hygiene will make in-person learning safe and possible

for everyone." The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations are in line with the suggestion from the AAP as well. S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman released her own statement on July 6. Spearman said that while the SCDE previously enforced the CDC's

January order requiring face coverings on public transportation, including school buses, that would no longer be the case. "The SCDE will exercise its enforcement discretion granted within this order and will no longer enforce the face covering requirement on state-owned school buses," Spearman

MASKS, A2

OUTSIDE



Weather
High 91, mostly sunny
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
Low 72, mostly clear
THURSDAY
High 94, sunny
FRIDAY
High 96, sunny
SATURDAY
High 91, mostly 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

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the Agency

HAPPENINGS

(state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8330. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.htm

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 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."

