

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 12, 2020

VOL 25, No. 19
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

Horry County moves closer to choosing site for equestrian center

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

Horry County leaders began narrowing down their list of possible sites for a multi-million dollar civic center and equestrian arena this past week.

County officials discussed six potential locations and they reviewed conceptual plans for three of them, although they showed strong interest in one tract.

Plans for the complex also continue to evolve. Now county officials are considering a large farmers market, a camping area and possibly a shooting range for the project.

"The whole concept is to get some rural tourism in this area," Horry County Councilman Danny Hardee said. "We don't have it out here...Anything you add is just going to be a plus to this project."

Interest in the center is being driven by Horry Electric Cooperative, which has provided the county with \$1.2 million for the facility and plans to contribute an estimated \$400,000 per year for the foreseeable future. That money comes from economic development funding that the cooperative would remit to the state if the county didn't use it.

Horry Electric leaders want the county to build a facility that will be large enough for the cooperative to hold an annual meeting for its members. The center would not only be available for membership meetings, but county officials also envision the facility as a draw for rodeos, farm equipment shows and other equestrian or agricultural events. They also hope the site could be rented by outside groups such as the Shriners or veterans organizations.

Recently, a special committee of county council members, cooperative leaders and other agriculture industry representatives spoke about the need for the complex to include a farmers market similar to the large-scale operations in Greenville and Florence.

"It would be excellent to put this on the site with this arena," said Benjie Andrew, who serves on the S.C. Agriculture Commission. "We've talked about it for years. I just think this is an opportunity. The site's big enough that the county might could work something out with the state ag commission or whatever to actually fund the facility and get it here."

Apart from incorporating the farmers market into the

EQUESTRIAN CENTER, A3



FILE PHOTO

Judge will determine who owns the old Loris High School building located on U.S. 701.

City wants judge to determine who owns the old Loris High School site

BY SCOTT HARPER
INFO@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Who legally owns the old Loris High School on U.S. 701?

That is now a question a judge will be asked to answer after a vote by Loris City Council during its Feb. 3 meeting.

Council held a nearly 90-minute closed door session -- held while meeting attendees waited outside the American Legion Hall. They were reportedly discussing legal issues concerning the property and whether it is owned by the city or by Nathan Hardwick, also known as Buddy, who lives in Georgia.

After that executive session, Councilman Carroll Padgett made a motion to ask the city attorney to prepare a declaratory judgement

action against Hardwick to determine the ownership. The motion passed unanimously.

After the meeting, Padgett was asked why it is not known who owns the property.

"There was an arrangement between the city and owner many years ago. There were certain requirements contained in that. And a dispute has arisen over who is responsible for cleaning up the property," Padgett answered. "Once we determine who the owner is, then we can determine what to do thereafter."

Mayor Todd Harrelson said he does not believe the city has ownership of the site. He said the contract the city had with Hardwick expired many years ago.

He said if it is ruled Hardwick is

the legal owner, the city will enforce its ordinances to have the property cleaned.

When asked if that means the old school will be torn down, Harrelson said: "I do not know about that. That will be up to him."

He said if it is decided it is owned by the city, a study will be conducted to figure out what to do.

The building has been in bad shape for years but was worsened after the flooding from Hurricane Florence in 2018, according to Harrelson.

For many, including Harrelson, the school and property have sentimental value. It was last used as a high school in the late 1980s and was later used as an elementary school, for grades 3-5, while the new Loris Elementary was being built.

Loris home to 22 baseball tournament weekends in 2020

BY SCOTT HARPER
INFO@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Most weekends will be much busier in Loris beginning Feb. 22 which is expected to mean a big boost to the city's economy.

The recent improvements at the city's recreation complex were made because the city has now partnered with Top Gun Sports USA, a company that organizes baseball tournaments.

Teams competing in the tournaments will come not only from South Carolina but also from surrounding states and even other parts of the country.

Loris will also host tournaments from USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association).

The tournaments will be for both youth baseball and softball.

Cocke said Top Gun holds both baseball and softball tournaments while USSSA holds only softball.

An umpire-training tournament for Top Gun will take place Feb. 22 and a similar tournament for USSSA will be held Feb. 29.

On March 7, a Top Gun softball tournament takes place followed by a USSSA tournament March 21.

The tournaments continue various weekends through early November. Some of the events are one-day tournaments

LORIS REC, A2

Retired Air Force pilot donates trips to patients in need



JANET MORGAN / THE HORRY INDEPENDENT

Growing up in Indiana, Fred Bosse and his mother loved airplanes. After a career in the U.S. Air Force, Bosse now volunteers as part of Angel Flight offering patients flights in his Cessna.

BY CHRISTIAN BOSCHULT
CHRISTIAN.BOSCHULT@MYHORRYNEWS.COM

Imagine a philanthropic Uber service, but instead of drivers chauffeuring passengers, it's volunteer pilots flying patients to specialists and treatments.

That's essentially what the Angel Flight Soars organization does. The program, founded by hospital sales broker Jim Shafer in 1984, even has a mobile app.

"I like to fly, and if I wasn't doing this, I would fly up and down the beach or do something just to maintain flight currency," said retired Air Force Colonel Fred Bosse. "And with this, I'm always looking for a new flight to go someplace else."

Since 2008, Bosse has been an Angel Flight pilot. The 79-year-old Indiana native first got involved with the pro-

gram while a flight instructor in Tyler, Texas. Now, he flies patients around the Southeast in his four-seat 1978 Cessna Cardinal airplane, although the engine is much newer. He flies out of the Grand Strand Airport in North Myrtle Beach's Windy Hill neighborhood.

"It avoids roadside travel for various patients," Bosse said. "The ones that I frequently get involved with are cancer patients and burns. We have people with blood disorders; we have transplants. Various things where it's advantageous to be able to fly to the appointment and not have to do eight-to-10 hours on the road to get there, and it's uncomfortable for the patient to do that, especially with burns."

Shortly after the sun rose on a crisp and clear Tuesday

ANGEL FLIGHT, A2

OUTSIDE



Weather

High 68, mostly cloudy

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Low 60, mostly cloudy

THURSDAY

High 78, rain

FRIDAY

High 53, mostly sunny

SATURDAY

High 52, sunny

HAPPENINGS

There will be an evening to remember to celebrate what God is doing through the Buckners in Zambia. There will be a meal, door prizes, a presentation by Ken and Karen Buckner, a silent auction and a regular auction at The Center for Health and Fitness auditorium, 3207 Casey St., Loris, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Tickets for the meal are \$20 per person. (Only 200 tickets available. Cash and checks accepted.) Door prizes will be given.

Special guest and emcee will be Ed Piotrowski and the auctioneer will be Dale Shelley. Some of Ken's original wildlife prints will be available at the auction, as well as many other great items. All proceeds will go toward purchasing a bus for the ministry in Zambia. Come early to view the items up for bid. Contact Frances Gregory at 843-283-4662 if you would like to purchase tickets or for more information.

Loris First United Methodist Church, 3507 Broad St., has a Blessing Box available each Friday, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. This box contains non-perishable 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. This institution is an

equal opportunity provider.

The Loris Civitan Club meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month (except December) at Backyard BBQ, 5107 Main St., Loris. For more information call Charles Webster at 843-756-4300.

The Loris Area Lions Club meets the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month from 7-8 p.m. at Dale's Seafood. For more

information call Lion Jim Murph at 756-7900.

St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, 3449 S.C. 65, will distribute food on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 11 a.m. until all food has been distributed.

