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Members of League of the South work to replace flags that were stolen last week from the Sycamore Tree monument on Highway 1.

Flags replaced on Confederate monuments

By JAMES JORDAN
The Dispatch-News

Members of the League of the South, also known as "Redshirts" re-installed flags last Friday at the Confederate monument on U.S. Highway 1. The marker is located near the Sycamore tree that George Washington rested under over 200 years ago.

The flags had been put up a week earlier, but vandals stole the flags and damaged the flagpole there and at a few other locations.

League of the South spokesman Larry Salley said the point of the

flags is to preserve history. They want to erect Confederate flags at monuments all over the state.

"There are 370 monuments in the state, and we hope to put the flags on every one of them," he said. They may also put up some Revolutionary War era flags in the future.

At the monument near the Sycamore tree, three flags from the Confederacy were erected, the Stars and Bars, the Third National and the Battle Flag.

Organizers said the flag is not a racist symbol and that they are try-

ing to preserve history.

However, one man was carrying a sign that said he "would not be mau maued," which he said was a reference to a speech made by the NAACP.

He also said he wanted all people to respect each other.

"If a black church is burned they say that is a hate crime. For someone to destroy our flags is a hate crime too," he said. He added that "NCAAP" people preach hate in their meetings.

Some of the 25 or so people

were also upset that they were not allowed to have a referendum on the flag flying atop the statehouse. The legislature decided to move the flag to a monument on the Statehouse grounds earlier this year.

Another man said he wanted the flag to go back on top of the statehouse, and he blamed the NCAAP for forcing their will on people who wanted to keep the flag.

Another man did not want to be identified, saying that members had agreed to let one person speak for the group.

Candidates all set for local elections in November



Scott Amick, left, and Scott Callison have decided to not seek reelection to the Lexington Town Council. Both have served one term on the council.

The list of candidates for local elections in Lexington County is set. The deadline for filing for office came last week.

The Town of Lexington will get two new council members, and could get three.

Councilmen Scott Callison and Scott Amick, who have served one term each, decided to not run for reelection.

Callison said he wanted to spend more time with his family, and wants to be able to coach his

son in sports.

"I never thought of the council as a long-term project. I have other things I want to do," he said.

He added that he might run again someday. He has also served on the City Council of Cayce.

Amick said he too wanted to spend more time with his children.

"It has been a great enlightening experience serving on the council," he said.

Incumbent Hazel Tyndal, who was elected with Callison and

Amick, has filed her petition and will be running again.

There will be three seats up for grabs and four candidates. The top three vote getters will win seats on the council.

The challengers are Constance Fleming, Linda Bryant and Jim Lowman. Lowman is a former council member.

Mayor Dan Breazeale is seeking reelection. He will be chal-

CANDIDATES
Please see page 2

Lexington will change flag rules

By JAMES JORDAN
The Dispatch-News

Maurice Bessinger will get to fly his Confederate flag, and anyone can fly any flag they want in the town, after a special meeting of the town council Monday night.

The town passed an amendment to its sign ordinance, which limited flags to the United States flag and the state flags only.

The town will make the amendment official at its next meeting, Sept. 5, when it will have second reading.

The matter came up last week when Bessinger raised the flag at his restaurants in the Midlands. He was protesting the removal of the flag from the statehouse. He also removed his United States flag in a protest of what he called a violation of state rights.

He had no problems in other towns, but in Lexington he was in violation of the sign ordinance. He was given a fine for two days, but on Friday the town decided to stop imposing the daily fine until it met Monday. At its special meeting the town decided to not fine anyone

'Even a USC or Clemson flag would not be allowed under our ordinance the way it is written.'

Dan Breazeale, Lexington Mayor

for violating the ordinance until after the amendment becomes official.

Councilman Stewart Bond, who helped draft the sign ordinance, said it was "never the town's intent to prevent any particular type of sign. It was purely for aesthetic reasons. We wanted to prevent sign blight," he said.

SIGN ORDINANCE
Please see page 2

ACLU threatens suit over pre-game prayer

By JAMES DENTON
The Dispatch-News

Lexington County School District 3 should be expecting some very serious mail in the coming days from the American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina.

LaVerne Neal, executive director of the state ACLU, said her organization plans to notify the school board that it is in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution following last Friday night's student-led prayer over the public address system prior to the Batesburg-Leesville football home opener.

By using the taxpayer-supported PA system, Neal said the school is "encouraging and promoting prayer, and a state-supported

school cannot do that."

Led by Batesburg-Leesville High School senior and student body president, Kimi Boozer, the brief invocation was received with general enthusiasm by the capacity crowd on hand to witness the contest between Batesburg-Leesville and White Knoll, the county's newest high school.

"We protect the right of individuals to voluntarily pray," Neal said. "If a player wanted to come out to the middle of the field and pray, we support that. If the audience wants to say the Lord's Prayer in the stands, or chant a prayer instead of 'Go team, go,' that's fine."

Student-led prayer over the

SCHOOL PRAYER
Please see page 2

Area water and sewer could be consolidated

By JAMES DENTON
The Dispatch-News

A new study by the Central Midlands Council of Governments will examine the possibilities of consolidation of Lexington County's water and sewer facilities.

Lexington County, which has seen its population sprout 25 percent over the last decade, has ten publicly operated and three privately operated water providers. In addition, the county has eight publicly operated and 13 privately operated collection systems, as well as seven publicly operated and 17 privately operated water discharge systems. County officials agree that to continue to build upon such a fragmented system would cost citizens and industries too much.

"If there is a situation out

there that would cause water bills for our citizens to be lower, I think it is worth looking into," Lexington mayor Dan Breazeale said. "But I'm not going to endorse a study up front without knowing what the outcome is."

Mayor Breazeale also suggested the possibility of looking into cities such as Greenville, Spartanburg, Gaffney and Newberry that have all undergone similar consolidation with great success.

"I was elected to represent the folks in Lexington," Mayor Breazeale added. "I've got to look out for their interests."

Mayor Breazeale also noted that the interests of West Columbia and Cayce would also have to be protected when con-

CONSOLIDATION
Please see page 3



Museum's real freinds

Co-Chairs Melissa Rawl (left) and Connie McFarland (right) help Kim Bowman hang the first of 350 posters going up around the Midlands to promote the Benefit Art Auction, which is to benefit the Lexington County Museum. See story on page 2.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

BUSINESS	10
CHURCH NEWS	9
CLASSIFIEDS	11-13
OBITUARIES	7-8
OPINION	4
SPORTS	15-16
PEOPLE	5-6

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Consolidation

Continued from page 1

sidering entering into any kind of utility consolidation. It is just that sort of protection of interest that may hold up progress on consolidation as officials of individual municipalities within Lexington County circle the wagons to protect their own turf. Meanwhile, some officials fear that consolidation would require expensive improvements that would actually cause service rates to increase.

Still, Lexington County Councilman Johnny Jeffcoat said he hopes the study and subsequent consolidation would "come to a better price for the consumer, as well as allow for expansion of services into areas of the county that don't currently have service."

"After the spill at Tin Products, which destroyed our sewer plant and a 65-acre lake, I felt it was a good time to look into it and see if there was interest in consolidating into one regional system," Jeffcoat, who called for the study, said. Jeffcoat said under a regional system, an isolated spill like the one by Tin Products, wouldn't shut down the entire system.

For now, the Central Midlands Council of Governments will continue to look into the possibility of consolidation, bringing the leaders of the county's municipalities together and examining the ultimate costs.

Branches of library close labor day

The Branches and Bookmobile of the Lexington County Public Library System will be closed Monday, Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 5.



Our man in the desert

State Senator Joe Wilson, of West Columbia, recently completed National Guard duty in the Mojave Desert in California. He spent two weeks there on maneuvers with a large unit from South Carolina.

Community briefs

Meals walk set Oct. 7

The Lexington County Recreation & Aging Commission's Seventh Annual Meals March Fitness Walk (any age) will be held Saturday, Oct. 7 with the march starting at 8:30 a.m. Registration 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

The primary objective of the Meals March is to raise additional dollars to enhance the Meals on Wheels Program which fights malnutrition and hunger among senior adults. The proceeds will benefit the Meals on Wheels Program in Lexington County. Meals on Wheels provide the homebound older adult and some developmentally disabled individuals a daily meal to help meet their daily nutritional requirements.

Computer classes are offered

Lakeview Education Center, West Columbia, is offering Computer courses. Adults may register beginning Sept. 5.

It is also offering a Certified Nurse Assistant Course, Electrical Apprenticeship, Fire Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship,

Conversational Spanish, Welding, Welding II, English Conversation Classes for Internationals, and JumpSTART, a free weekly play group designed for parents, grandparents, foster parents, guardians, and their preschoolers ages 2, 3, and 4 years old who live in the Lexington School District 2 attendance area.

For more information and details, call 739-4198.

Class helps escape debt

Get out of debt — free. At least learn how to get out of debt. Clemson Extension, the S.C. Dept. of Consumer Affairs and Cayce/West Columbia Branch Library is offering a free class on strategies for good record keeping, the ABC's of saving, getting out of debt/managing debt successfully, consumer rights and responsibilities and protecting your money from fraud.

The class will be Thursday, Aug. 31, 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon at the Cayce/West Columbia Library, 1500 Augusta Rd., West Columbia.

Pre-registration is required. Call (803) 359-8515 or (803) 929-6030.

Pirelli Cable announces \$83.5 million expansion

Pirelli Cables has announced plans to expand its current facility, and built a new plant at the Columbia Airport Enterprise Park.

The expansion calls for a \$83.5 million investment and the creation of 260 new jobs.

According to a company press release, the facility is expanding to "meet the competitive demand for fiber optic cable products."

The Lexington County Council gave them a tax break which includes a six percent rate for 20 years. The normal business rate is 10 percent.

County Councilman Bill Banning said the six percent is a common break given to companies who expand in the county.

The county will also provide the land at the industrial park for the new facility.

"They are going to start real soon. I think they will start moving dirt today," Banning said on Friday.

Banning said these high-tech jobs are the kind the council wants to bring into the county. He added that there are other deals in the works that will bring more industry to the county.

He said in a few weeks he would be able to announce a new business that would create 300 jobs. Both Pirelli and the new company are in school district 2. Kevin Riddett, CEO of Pirelli

Cables, said the expansion is part of a continuing plan for growth.

"The growth over the past few years has provided Pirelli with the opportunity to capitalize by delivering consistently high quality products to our customers. We were able to do this in large part because of the supportive business climate in South Carolina," Riddett said.

The new facility will be built on a 62-acre site.

The existing Lexington facility is already Pirelli's largest fiber optic manufacturing facility. It makes enough cable to circle the globe 200 times each year, company officials said.

Sheriff schedules traffic operations

Check stops scheduled

The Lexington County Sheriff's Department has issued a public advisory of scheduled traffic-enforcement operations for the next seven days.

Sheriff James R. Metts said that deputies will be concentrating on specific offenses or on problem locations identified by patrol observations, citizen complaints or accident-rate statistics. Motorists should be aware of this increased activity and exercise caution when traveling in these areas.

Special operations planned include:

Thursday morning, Aug. 31, Micala Road, speed limit (radar saturation).

Thursday afternoon and evening, Aug. 31, Track Road, reckless driving, DUI and speed limit enforcement (radar saturation).

Friday morning, Sept. 1, Blue Field Road, speed limit (radar saturation).

Friday afternoon and evening, Sept. 1, McLee Road, speed limit (radar saturation).

Saturday afternoon and evening, Sept. 2, Smith Pond Road, reckless driving, DUI and speed limit enforcement (radar saturation).

Sunday, Sept. 3, no special operations planned. Monday morning, Sept. 4, Tylers Trail, reckless driving, DUI and speed limit enforcement (radar saturation).

Monday afternoon and evening, Sept. 4, Appletree Lane, reckless driving, DUI and speed limit enforcement (radar saturation).

Tuesday morning, Sept. 5, Bridle Ridge Road, speed limit enforcement (radar saturation).

Tuesday afternoon and evening, Sept. 5, no special operations planned.

Wednesday morning, Sept. 6, Southwood Circle, speed limit enforcement (radar saturation).

Wednesday afternoon and evening, Sept. 6, Wild West Court, speed limit enforcement (radar saturation).

Benefit set for West Columbia woman

Twenty five-year-old Teresa Edwards Taylor was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy 12 years ago. On July 24, she received a heart transplant at MUSC.

Taylor is a graduate of Lexington High and Midlands Tech, and a member of Oakwood Baptist.

You may join her friends and

family by offering your support in a bake sale, yard sale, BBQ chicken lunch or silent auction Saturday, Sept. 23 at Oakwood Baptist Church, 3520 Mineral Springs Rd., Lexington.

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations: call 356-4049 or 356-3419. Also in Lexington at Ultimate Audio, 1110 West Main St., Taylor's Poultry, 4701

Augusta Hwy.; Taylor's Auto Sales, 1109 West Main St; Palmetto Lawn & Leisure, Hwy. 378 and I-20; in West Columbia at Baker's Hair Styling, 2305 Sunset Court.

BBQ plates are \$10. Donations may be sent to Teresa Taylor Fund, in care of Wayne Wright, 2936 Oakwood Dr., West Columbia, S.C. 29169.