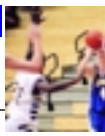
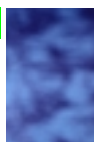


Dixie Youth ties for 2nd at World Series in Texas

16/ High School volleyball previews



Local woman goes for title of Mrs. America



Roads may get paved

The Dispatch-News

LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2000

34 PAGES • TWO SECTIONS • 50 CENTS

Red Bank divided on proposal

By JAMES JORDAN The Dispatch-News

Organizers of the proposed Town of Red Bank ran into some opposition last Thursday, but the group vowed to not give up.

Jimmy Shealy, one of the people behind the move, said Friday he thought the group would continue its efforts to incorporate.

The group wants to organize the Red Bank area into a town in order to have some control over growth, and to preserve the identity of the area. Shealy fears the Town of Lexington will someday annex the area if it doesn't become a town in its own right first.

Several of the people at the meeting last week questioned Shealy's motives, and said they feared they would have to pay additional taxes if they were incorporated.

After the meeting, the people there cast ballots for incorporation by a vote of 130 to 96.

At the beginning of the meeting those in attendance were told that if they lived along the edges of the proposed town limits, they could opt out of the town. Those on the edge who were not included can also become included if they wish.

Residents of several subdivisions that could opt out attended. They were there to express their desire to not be incorporated. Shealy said he believes a lot of those people cast negative votes in the straw poll held after the meeting.

Shealy was a little upset by some of the comments, but he said he and his group would press on.

"We are going to rest a little while and see what we can do. I've been called enough names for a few days. I've never had that many people talk to me so rough in public before," he said.

Tom Nuell of the Rolling Hills subdivision said he thought there would be taxes, and wanted out of the incorporation idea.

Shealy has said the town will be set up to not have taxes. This can be done because the county provides most services that cost money, such as police protection, fire and emergency services, as well as water and sewer.

He added that even if someone wanted to have taxes later on, it

RED BANK Please see page 2

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FOOTBALL BEGINS



Last Friday's Sportsarama gave local fans a taste of high school football with area teams playing for a quarter each. Above White Knoll coach Mark Cagle gives his team a pep talk after his team's quarter of play. The team of the newly-formed school will play its first game Friday at Batesburg-Leesville. At right, Jennifer Jackson is introduced as this year's Sportsarama queen. For more photos and stories about the season opener, please see page 16



PHOTO: JAMES JORDAN

Confederate flags stolen from area

From Staff Reports

This past Friday, a group of men representing South Carolina's Red Shirts installed three Confederate flags near West Columbia's famed Sycamore tree on Hwy. 1, an off-spring of a tree that shed George Washington.

By Monday, the flags were gone. Another flag, a Old Orangeburg Road and Chestnut Street in Lexington, was also taken down.

Sheriff's Department spokesman Capt. John Allard said officers did not know whether the culprits were just pranksters or a protest against the flags.

Monday afternoon Captain Mel Sebo found a flag like the missing ones in some woods near Dixiana. He was on an unrelated call, looking for a robbery suspect with bloodhounds. The flag had some small

burn marks on it.

The flags were the three-foot-by-three-foot Confederate Battle Flags. As part of the compromise to lower the Confederate flag from atop the statehouse in Columbia, the flags can now be displayed at any Confederate monument in the state.

The S.C. Heritage Coalition, calling themselves "redshirts" have been putting up the flags.

The flag poles and various flags of the confederacy are being erected at various memorial parks, using the law that lowered the flag from the Statehouse. The group, headed by Tony Carr of North Augusta, put up flags at various Jeff Davis markers in Aiken County. Most of the flags are along historic Route 1.

Flags were also taken down in the Aiken area.

Lexington girl competes for Miss Teen USA title

By JAMES JORDAN The Dispatch-News

Lexington's Morgan Smith will be competing for the title of Miss Teen USA this weekend in Louisiana. She plans to have a good time and hopes to win, but she said she is not going to try the local delicacy, which is crawfish.

"I heard the food down there is great, but I am not going to try that," she said.

Smith, 18, has only been active in pageants for three years. Late last year she won the Miss Teen South Carolina Pageant after competing in it a second time.

The first time she entered, she said she was too focused on winning, and too worried about winning.

"I think the first time I was too worried about winning. I was so

much into that that I lost sight of who I was," she said.

The second time "I just went as myself and relaxed. I even cut my hair just before it because I wanted to, regardless of how that would affect the pageant."

She is trying to take that same attitude to the national competition this weekend.

"Winning would be the ultimate thrill," she said. "I have prepared as best I could. I'm going in with a clear head and an open mind. Whatever happens I will be happy with the experience."

Smith said she "feels lucky" to be able to follow a dream of being Miss Teen USA.

She graduated from Lexington High School last year. She won the Peach Festival Queen title in 1999, and was the Funfest Queen last

year. She won the Columbia Teen USA title, which qualified her for the state pageant she won.

She started in pageants three years ago. She entered a contest and won the teen division, "so I just kept doing it."

Through her pageants she has won scholarships to Anderson College as well as Columbia College. She is planning on enrolling at Columbia College next spring to study business administration and marketing.

After graduating from college she hopes to start a business, possibly a cosmetic and jewelry business in Lexington.

She works at a local health club as a personal trainer, and works out on weights herself regularly.

MISS TEEN Please see page 3

Lake Murray could change ownership

By EMILY COOPER The Dispatch-News

It's a tax-break for S. C. Electric and Gas Co., and it's a gift for South Carolina - approximately 51,000 acres of Lake Murray.

Gov. Jim Hodges signed a memorandum of understanding Monday with SCE&G to explore the donation of property in and around Lake Murray and the formation of a public-private partnership to manage the lake's future.

At this point, no one is sure what it means in terms of regulation, taxes or the environment.

"I would hope" for more regulation, Gilbert Bagnell, a member of the Citizens for Responsible Development, said. That regulation should be "in a way that preserves the accessibility of the lake while protecting it."

"Lake Murray is a resource that needs to be protected," he said.

"You can't approach it piecemeal, county by county. County governments have not given a level of importance to the protection of the lake.

"SCE&G hasn't been the worst steward," Bagnell said, but added that "we need the police power of the State - That's assuming that governments carries its responsibility."

Part of the agreement is that the State and SCE&G work out ways to avoid a negative impact on the four counties' tax base when the acreages' switch from private to public.

SCE&G will continue to have an easement on the 360-foot contour elevation and will operate the Saluda Hydroelectric project to maintain the average low level of the lake at 354 feet in elevation, about one foot above the current

LAKE MURRAY Please see page 2

Builders are told to quieten down

By JAMES JORDAN The Dispatch-News

Building boom or not, contractors in the Town of Lexington are going to have to tone it down between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

After residents of the Bent Creek Subdivision complained to the town council Monday night about loud noise late at night, the town amended its noise ordinance to include construction crews. Before Monday night they were exempt from the ordinance.

Leslie Bomar of the S.C. Association of General Contractors asked the town to study the matter further before making a final decision. She also wanted the town to form a committee that included contractors.

The town agreed to discuss the matter further, but wanted to give the people of Bent Creek some relief.

The ordinance is effective immediately, but the town will

hear from contractors and citizens and work out the details of what will and will not be allowed in the town.

Residents of Bent Creek told the council crews were working "in their back yards," and making

TOWN COUNCIL

a lot of noise as early as 2 or 3 a.m. They also said crews were playing boom boxes loud, cursing loudly, and banging a lot of metal.

"We would like for contractors to have some courtesy and decency," George Lawson said.

David Hutchins, general manager of Colson and Colson contractors, told the council that the ordinance would not work because sometimes concrete has to be poured at night. He

Lexington Please see page 2



Morgan Smith vies for the Miss Teen USA title this weekend. PHOTO: JAMES JORDAN