



Searching for Prosperity

Basketball season gets started

13/B-L loses in AA semifinals

Mentoring program gives students more options

The court of public opinion

The Dispatch-News

LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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WILDCATS REACH STATE FINALS

Satterfield no stranger to big games

By JAMES JORDAN
The Dispatch-News

Lexington coach Jimmy Satterfield has been in championship games before. But so far his experience in them has been at the collegiate level when he was the Furman coach.

With a 28-24 win over

More Wildcat football Page 14

Spartanburg last Friday, the Wildcats earned a spot in the State Class AAAA state championship game.

He will lead the Lexington High School Wildcats into the state title game Saturday at Williams-Brice Stadium.

The coach said it is always exciting to play for a championship, but he said it may be even more exciting at the high school level.

"It really isn't much different, preparing for a college national championship and a state high school championship. There is a lot of excitement among the fans either way. But at the high school level the whole community is involved.



Cheerleader Andrea Burkett cheers on the Wildcats in the final moments of their game last Friday.

PLAYOFFS

Please see page 2

PHOTO: JAMES JORDAN

Ingram: 'This is the best Wildcat team ever'

By JAMES DENTON
The Dispatch-News

Is this the best team of all time for Lexington High School? It is if the opinion of former head coach J. W. Ingram counts for anything.

Ingram should know. After all, during his tenure, as an assistant from 1935 - 1938, and then as head coach until 1969, Ingram led the Wildcats to three consecutive State Championships, in 1948, '49 and '50.

Although Lexington did not appear in the postseason between 1950 and 1959, it was no fault of Ingram's.

"The superintendent we had at that time was dead-on about academics," Ingram recalled. "He thought we were putting too much emphasis on football, so after 1950, we played the regular schedule and that was it. He didn't allow us to go to the playoffs."

COACH INGRAM
Please see page 2



This is the 1949 Lexington High School team, coached by J.W. Ingram. This team won the state championship three consecutive years, from 1948-1950. In 1950 the team received such a loud escort after the game, the superintendent decided athletics was getting too much attention, and for the next 10 years he would not allow Ingram's teams to compete in the playoffs. The 1950 team was the last one to win a state title here.

Water fees irritate town's businesses

Mayor plans ask for study

By EMILY COOPER
The Dispatch-News

Pam Stafford at The Jitterbug, a coffee shop, serving about 60 cups of coffee per half day of operation, was told she'd pay for 1,000 gallons of wastewater per day.

What's been called "water tap fees" is a sore subject for a number of new businesses in Lexington town limits.

"I think it's outrageously overpriced," said Joe Harrell of The Shrimper that opened here recently.

"Since we've been in business so long in Cayce, we had water records to prove our usage," he said. The restaurant uses paper goods, so it doesn't have all the dishwashing that some restaurants do.

After appealing to The Town Council, it reduced the fee from the initial \$28,000 to \$16,000. "That's not one pipe laid," Harrell said.

"We had everything on the drawing board. We were expecting \$4,000 to \$6,000. Then they popped us with \$28,000."

Even with the reduced fee, Harrell said, "We're a family-owned business. That put us over budget. That's a large sum of money for us."

A "tap fee" is a misnomer, according to Sidney Varn Jr., director of Engineering and Planning for the Town. "It's really a capital contribution." He calls it a "capital contribution fee" or "CCF."

"It's more than a tap fee. It's based on the amount of infrastructure that a person is using per 300 gallons - which is the amount of wastewater the average household uses," Mayor Dan Breazeale said.

"It's like a really large impact



who was to clean it up or pay for the clean-up." Town officials said they wouldn't know whose fault it was for a week, so, of course, she had to clean it up. "I could n't leave it sitting there."

It turns out it was the Town's fault, caused by sand in the lines, she said. "I've had to close three times since opening in May because of sewer problems."

Dr. Rick Singh, new pediatric dentist in town, was required to pay an \$8,000 water tap fee, "which is absurd," he said. "It was something I wasn't expecting."

Singh said his office has seven dental chairs and the Town figured he saw x-amount of patients per day. "A dental office doesn't really turn out that much affluent, seeing 40 to 50 people a day, he said.

Singh was also unhappy with the landscaping ordinance that specified what kind of trees he could plant, with no thought given

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WATER RATES
Please see page 2

West Columbia looking to give itself a facelift

By JAMES DENTON
The Dispatch-News

The city of West Columbia is looking for a face-lift. With a recent study just complete showing that non-residents have a poor image of West Columbia residents and West Columbia residents view their city as dirty, run down and dangerous, Columbia's sister city is undergoing an effort to clean up.

The city of West Columbia has a new sign ordinance, new landscaping rules, a new code enforcement officer and new street sweepers. In addition, city officials will spend \$350,000 next year burying utility lines and installing new streetlights. The city has also spent \$4,000 on a sign-making machine to replace faded street signs. An entrance sign to the city has been in the works for years, but city officials are still awaiting approval by the owner of the property that lies just off the west side of the

Gervais Street Bridge.

While the city of West Columbia makes every effort to improve its image, Mayor Mac Rish said citizens are going to have to pitch in.

"People have to police their own areas," Rish said. "We can't pick up every gum wrapper in the city. There has to be some citizen responsibility."

The city recently received a grant to revitalize the State Street area. The project will entail moving power lines to get utility poles off the street, erect lampposts and encourage business owners to keep a fresh coat of paint on their storefronts. Rish said the project could also include repairing brickwork and concrete work along State Street.

While no rigid timeline has been set, Rish said he hopes to start moving the power lines during the first half of next year.



Final preparations

Workers at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church pack up boxes of Thanksgiving dinners on Thanksgiving Day of last week. The boxes of prepared dinners were taken to people in the county who may not have otherwise had a nice meal on that day. About 1700 dinners were served by people at the church, with many of them being delivered to elderly citizens.

PHOTO: TRACEY ANDERSON

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- CHURCH NEWS 9
- CLASSIFIEDS 10
- OBITUARIES 5-6
- OPINION 4
- SPORTS 13-14
- PEOPLE 6-7
- CHURCH LISTING 8

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