Local Volunteers Have a Heart 4 Schools

By Deb Madden

On any given day if you’re lucky enough to walk Flat Rock Elementary’s hallways, you’ll be privy to a multitude of wonderful sights and sounds. You might see children lying down on their tummies on taped floors as their jet toys are propelled by colorful balloons. You might even run into Mr. Bib, aka, The Michelin Man, visiting as a result of our partnership with Michelin North America. You’ll definitely see children and educators buzzing with the excitement of learning. But then you may notice two people softly reading together on the park benches that grace the halls. Herein lies our quiet heroes. Here, you’ll find Reading Buddies.

Two years ago, Mrs. Debbie Alexander, a former mathematics teacher at Starr-Iva Middle and Crescent High School, and devoted member of Flat Rock Baptist Church approached the school with the Heart 4 Schools initiative—a collaboration between the SC State Department of the Education and the SC Baptist Convention. Flat Rock is thankful as the Reading Buddies have been a blessing to our students and teachers.

John, who has been with his Reading Buddy since third grade, states, “I love having a reading buddy because she’s very nice and she helps me with my struggles in reading. Mrs. Alexander is understanding of the things I’m saying and she’s very open-hearted. We both help each other. Sometimes if she doesn’t have her glasses, I help her. Mrs. Alexander is very loving.” Mrs. Alexander stated that she “looks forward to Mondays so she can see her reading buddies.”

Christy Dodd, Flat Rock Elementary Principal states, “For three years, we have had a dedicated group of volunteers show up for our students to create relationships and improve reading skills. These individuals have worked tirelessly not only to make sure our students are able to achieve in the classroom, but they make sure each student has a champion he or she can depend on. We are so blessed by our Reading Buddies partnership at Flat Rock Elementary School and look forward to a longstanding relationship with them.”

This year, the program added high school Reading Buddies along with our existing adult reading buddies equalling a total of 21 buddies serving the children.

“I’m extremely proud of the Crescent students who have been consistent volunteers with the Reading Buddies program this year. I think they have had a taste of what education can be in its purest form, and I know they’ve made a positive difference in the lives of their young mentees. I was moved earlier in the year by a request from Cheyenne Crocker, one of Crescent’s volunteers. She asked for permission to go eat lunch at Flat Rock for her buddy’s birthday. She ended up taking cupcakes as a surprise and made a little girl’s day. Students like Cheyenne and her fellow volunteers provide me with some much needed optimism about the future of our community,” states Alex Smith, Crescent High School Career Development Coordinator.

The Reading Buddies not only give of their time to read and mentor students, they provide Christmas gifts to all the staff, bring tasty treats, and they pray for the school.

For more Heart 4 Schools information, please see the following links: https://vimeo.com/203876263 http://www.scbaptist.org/heart4schools/
Hunting & Fishing Report
by Marty Young

May 2019

Turkey season is about to end as April leaves us. It’s been a good year for hunting as there have been more multi-bearded toms than ever before. Glen McMahan had a 21.5 pound bird that had a 10” and a 7.5” beard. It also had 1” spurs! Check out a picture on the Sportmans One Stop Facebook page. Here at the end of the season is actually a good time to try to call in an old tom because most of the hens are bred and setting on eggs. You won’t have as much “competition” from the real deal. Aggressive “cutting” and then being very quiet will usually perk up a big boy’s interest. Good luck in the chase.

The crappie spawn is starting to wind down. The fish will move back from the bank to brush piles in 10 to 15 feet of water. To catch crappie after the spawn, mark the brush with buoy markers and anchor within casting distance up-wind. Crappie can still be caught under bridges with lights at night as well.

Bass will still be on the bed for the next few weeks and can be sight fished with creature baits (lizards and craws). They will also be chasing the fresh hatchling making it an ideal time to work top water baits such as Pencil Poppers and IMA Skimmers.

Catfish will just now start to feed aggressively to prepare for their spawn and can be caught with cutbait, chicken liver, or worms.

Bream will also be bedding, and they make for big fun to catch...pretty good table fare too!

Get out and enjoy our beautiful springtime weather, and if you are fishing, take a kid. They’ll never forget!

Mother’s Day
By Marlene Wiles (2008)

Mother’s Day. What does it mean to you? I find that as the day approaches I am feeling many simultaneous, conflicting emotions: so very proud of my sons and their beautiful wives, incredibly in love with my grandchildren, anticipating the joyous arrival of our new baby, exhilarated about my oldest grandson’s dedication to God’s will, longing for the “old days” when life was so much simpler....and missing my mother so terribly that the emptiness inside me is a physical thing.

At the age of almost 62, I find myself coming to terms with the brevity of life. Inside this wrinkled and stiff old body there still lives that 18-year-old girl who looked at the world through the proverbial rose-colored glasses. However, one glance in the mirror brings me swiftly and painfully back to reality where I am amazed to see the image of my mother looking back at me.

Mother.....a woman I never truly understood until I had my first child; a woman who fought physical and social battles that I will never be able to completely comprehend; a woman who must have been terrified as she lovingly tried to care for her newborn baby, a baby doctors warned her not to have; a woman who could not hear the telephone ring; a woman who could not speak plainly and was afraid of strangers; a woman who always came to school with cake and treats on my birthday even though she knew she would be laughed at and made fun of. Every single day of her life she faced obstacles that thankfully, most of us only read about.....things that ostracized her from regular society and kept her from doing many of the ordinary things of life that most people would consider routine. She was the nucleus of our family......everything revolved around her, but the sad thing is none of us knew it until she was gone and nothing was ever the same again.

I realize now that she lived her life through me. My accomplishments were her accomplishments, my dreams were her dreams, my failures were her failures, and she loved me with complete abandon. I fondly remember as a small child sitting on her lap as she did the “little piggy thing” on my toes. I remember her letting me stay home from school to help make chow-chow, my hand getting blistered from handling all the hot peppers. I remember Saturday rides on Cook’s bus to Anderson for all-day shopping and lunch at Dixon’s Ice Cream Parlor. I remember how afraid she was of a thunderstorm. I remember how, on the day I received my driver’s license, she determined that Daddy had completely lost all ability to operate a car. And I remember that although in my lifetime she never stepped inside a church she made sure that I was ready to go when Aunt Lucy started her walk to Iva Baptist Church’s Sunday morning service.

Mother always did the best she could and by most standards she probably would have been considered a failure, but not by me. I now realize that she possessed a strength that defied all reason. Mother did not understand that her physical limitations were not genetic and after coming to me in tears, afraid that she might “pass this on” to my children I quickly realized how she often suffered in silence....another sign of her great strength.

Although to others she may be very different, to me she was my mother and nothing about her was unusual. She was completely unique. I never compared her to other women, as the thought just never occurred to me. She was simply my mother, and although in every place but our home she must have felt ostracized, isolated and alone, she was the greatest woman I have ever known. I just wish I had told her.
Eyes on Iva

May 2019

She was one of the few who ever broke into successful, productive adults. Grandmother Walker instilled in all of her children a love of language, the arts, nature, and, most importantly, love for their Heavenly Father. Mama never spoke of her mother as a strong individual, but I believe it was probably because she only knew her as Mother, not the person her descendants now learn about and admire. My mama’s mother is amazing in what she managed to do. There was no Social Security, no welfare, nothing to help Grandmother Walker raise her family alone. Old family papers show that her brothers helped her financially by sending her money monthly, and Grandmother sold magazines and wrote articles for an Atlanta newspaper to help support her family. Mama knew from an early age that she would have to make her own way. Sara Swift Walker excelled in school. She was a Valedictorian of her graduating class, but there was no money to send her to college. She took a job with Southern Bell and worked at the office in Elberton, Georgia until her marriage.

My brother, David, and I were her priority always. She didn’t want to work outside the home while we were small but yearned to help Daddy support our family. She became a reporter and columnist for the Anderson Independent & Daily Mail when we were small. Many of our family adventures were chronicled weekly in the Saturday afternoon Daily Mail. I treasure these columns now, but as children we were existence difficult at times. It presented problems that made co-existence difficult at times. I’ve worked hard to preserve as much as possible of her writings about my children as I could because I never want them to forget her, and I want their children to know of this lady who would have loved them so.

As we grow older, we see why we are the people we are. I didn’t see this until the last five years of my mother’s life. I learned more from her in that time than I did as I grew up. This is sad, because I was too stubborn growing up to listen and when I did, it was almost too late. Always know as children that your parents love you and want what’s best for you even though you don’t always know how to go about it. Children don’t come with instructions so we all do the best we can.

When I was your age, I wasn’t interested in things like this, so you probably aren’t either. But please save this article to your writing garden so you can learn more about your Grandmother and yourselves and then preserve them for your children. Remember, some of us won’t be here to help them know these things by the time they’re ready to know.

With the most love in the world to my children and grandchildren,
Mary Faith McDonald Craft

Children’s Book Week

by Brianna McDonell

April 29 to May 5

The book is written by Lynne Kelly, a sign language interpreter, but it remains accessible and wholly engaging. Recommended for ages 8-14.

Spring means quite a few outdoor sports will be picked back up, and here are two Young Adult books perfect for teens that center on sports. British author Andrew Norris’s The Story of Floyd, a competitive tennis player whose father was a tennis pro and now Floyd’s tennis coach. But the appearance of Mike—a mysterious boy that only Floyd can see—will push Floyd to think about what sort of future he actually wants for himself. Recommended for younger teens.

Heroine by Mindy McGinnis is described by Kirkus Reviews as “a compassionate, compelling, and terrifying story” as star softball player Mickey becomes increasingly dependent on opioids after her injury. It’s a human, cautionary story that looks deeply at Mickey and her increasingly perilous drug addiction. Recommended for older teens.

Celebrate Children’s Book Week this week—or any week—by picking up these or other fantastic picture, juvenile, or Young Adult books and sharing the wonder, joy, and adventure of reading with your family.

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I am an Accredited Buyers Representative. I also received the Certificate of Professionalism from the South Carolina Association of Realtors. I have served on the Grievance Committee, the RPAC Committee, the Professional Standards Committee, and the Board of Directors of the Western Upstate Association of Realtors® (formerly Anderson Association of Realtors®), for various terms since 1999. I also served on the South Carolina REALTORS® Board of Directors for 2015.

Buying or Selling - Call Me!

Ann H. Simpson
Broker/Owner

The running national celebration of books for young people and the joy of reading. It is a great opportunity to discover new books from the Iva Library for children and teens. Here are some book recommendations to get started:

When You Are Brave is a new picture book by Pat Zietlow Miller and illustrated by Eliza Wheeler, the creative duo behind Wherever You Go. With colorful, mixed media illustrations, When You Are Brave provides a poetic lesson on the courage and bravery it takes to face change as the child and family move to a new home. Recommended for ages 3-8.

Song For A Whale is a new middle-grade book that features Iris—a 12-year-old deaf girl who finds a kindred spirit in a whale that sings at a frequency unintelligible to other whales. Weaving into the adventurous story are elements of ASL and Iris’ challenges relating to her deafness.

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Iris is a unique individual. Her columns detail the time she spent with them and bring back memories now that, as a harried young Mom, I had forgotten. But the appearance of Mike—a mysterious boy that only Floyd can see—will push Floyd to think about what sort of future he actually wants for himself. Recommended for younger teens.

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Celebrate Children’s Book Week this week—or any week—by picking up these or other fantastic picture, juvenile, or Young Adult books and sharing the wonder, joy, and adventure of reading with your family.

My mother was a small woman but only in height. She grew up in a family of six children who were raised solely by their widowed mother from the time Mama was a toddler. Mom’s Dad committed suicide for reasons never understood by his family members who mourned him until their own deaths. Grandmother raised five children who grew into successful, productive adults. Grandmother Walker instilled in all of her children a love of language, the arts, nature, and, most importantly, love for their Heavenly Father. Mama never spoke of her mother as a strong individual, but I believe it was probably because she only knew her as Mother, not the person her descendants now learn about and admire. My mama’s mother is amazing in what she managed to do. There was no Social Security, no welfare, nothing to help Grandmother Walker raise her family alone. Old family papers show that her brothers helped her financially by sending her money monthly, and Grandmother sold magazines and wrote articles for an Atlanta newspaper to help support her family. Mama knew from an early age that she would have to make her own way. Sara Swift Walker excelled in school. She was a Valedictorian of her graduating class, but there was no money to send her to college. She took a job with Southern Bell and worked at the office in Elberton, Georgia until her marriage.

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With the most love in the world to my children and grandchildren,
Mary Faith McDonald Craft
Eyes on Pets
by Dr. Danielle Nixon, Crescent Animal Hospital

Chocolate, Grapes, Raisins, and Onions: Please Don’t!

The weather is warming up, the grills are lighting up, and the picnic baskets are coming out. With all of the of the time that we will start to spend outdoors, there are four main foods that I like to remind pet owners not to give their pets.

The first that most pet owners are aware of is chocolate. Chocolate is dose dependent, meaning that a bigger dog can tolerate a larger dose than a smaller dog, but different types of chocolate can be more toxic. Dry cocoa powder and unsweetened chocolate bars are more toxic to your pet than milk chocolate. The website https://veterinary-clinic.com/chocolate/calc.html is a great website to use if you need to calculate if your pet will need medical attention or what side effects could occur.

The second and third foods--grapes, raisins and some currants--can cause acute kidney failure. This toxicity is not dose dependent so even a small amount of grapes or raisins can cause issues. There have been some reports of toxicity with foods and drinks that contain grapes like bagels, trail mix, and grape juice. The first signs that you will see with your pet are anorexia, vomiting, and diarrhea. If you know that your pet has ingested grapes, raisins, or currants, please call your veterinarian as soon as possible.

The final foods to avoid feeding your pet this summer are too many onions or garlic. Onions and garlic come from the Allium family and can be toxic to both cats and dogs. The most significant damage that onions and garlic will do is to the red blood cells causing them to be frail and weak. Too many onions and garlic at first will cause drooling, vomiting, and diarrhea, and then anemia from the breakdown of the red blood cells. According to Pet Poison Control Center, garlic is 5 times more potent than an onion to our furry family members!

So, remember this summer season as you are enjoying your food out by campfires or grilling out by the pool that just because it is good for you doesn’t mean that your four-legged family member can eat it too!

Eyes on Iva

What Will Our Children Remember?

Being a mom is tough. Whether your children are still in diapers or have children of their own, being a mom is hard work. And let’s just be honest- every woman isn’t cut out to be a mom. It’s about sacrifice. It’s about late nights and early mornings. It’s about listening, and it’s about counseling. It’s about giving and giving and giving... and then giving some more. But isn’t it fun? Isn’t it rewarding? Isn’t it a blessing? As you read on you’ll find a tribute from Mrs. Joanna Wiles to her mother, Mrs. Jobeth Tilley. Joanna reminds us all that it’s not the big vacations, Christmas gifts, or designer clothes your children are going to remember- it’s those everyday things you do that your children will one day think back on when they think of you. Take a moment and ask yourself, moms, “What will my children remember about me?”

“Til the storm passes over. Til the thunder sounds no more.”

The room lit up brilliantly. I started to count, but there wasn’t enough time as the thunder shook the walls of our small 2 bedroom house. I was huddled between the wall and the bottom bunk in the bedroom that my brother and I shared, yet I wasn’t alone. I could feel her arms around me as she held me tight and continued to sing, “Til the clouds roll forever from the sky. Hold me fast. Let me stand in the hollow of thy hand. Keep me safe til the storm passes by.” And she always did. My angel on earth. I call her Mama.

Once, lightning ran in on a television I was watching, and after that, I was terrified of storms as a little girl. During every thunderstorm that I can remember, Mama was there to hold me, rock me, and sing that old hymn.

There were many storms in my childhood, some literal many figuratively. She was always there to comfort and console me. She always tried everything within her power to be sure I felt safe. Now that I’m grown, I am blessed to have a friend in her. Since we work together at Starr Iva, I get to see her everyday. The beauty of working together is knowing I get to walk up to the office every morning and tell her good morning. We talk a few minutes before the day gets started, and we always part with an “I love you. Have a good day!”

Mama will tell you I was the best Mother’s Day present she ever received as they came home from the hospital with me on that special day in May so many years ago. This year, I would like to let her know that she was the best Mother’s Day present to me. She taught me everything I needed to know to be the mother that I am. Sometimes I question myself, but I always try to think back and imagine what my mama would have done. I strive to be the Mama she was and is to my brothers and me.

I don’t recall the last time I heard her sing that hymn to me. Like a mother tries to remember the lasts of her children, I wish I could go back to that moment and record it, so I could keep it forever. However, I have many more moments to live with her, and I plan to cherish each and every one.

As cliche as it sounds, she is the best. Happy Mother’s Day, Mama and to all of the best Mamas out there.

Youth Turkey Day
Successful for Local Hunter

Bryce Campbell, son of Ben and Kristy Campbell, shows off his first turkey kill. His bird, weighing in at 20 pounds and with a 10-½ inch beard, was killed on Youth Day. Bryce was very excited about this big trophy bird as you can tell by the big smile on his face!
SIMS Students Place in Two Categories at the Upstate Middle School Glider Challenge


By Amy Russell

The robotics team at Starr-Iva Middle School recently participated in the Upstate Middle School Glider Challenge at Daniel High School. The competition focused on having students explore the relationship between force and motion and the effects of weight and lift on a glider. According to Mrs. Johnie Cape, Project Lead the Way instructor, there were three main categories: Distance, Hang Time, and Target.

The Glider Challenge was much more than just playing with airplanes all day. Each of the three category challenges incorporated a problem-solving process taught at engineering schools across the country. In the “Engineering Design Experience,” students were grouped into Engineering Design Teams and presented with a marketing/production/design problem from a fictitious company. Team members examined the goal, identified the intended product and audience, established what information to gather and synthesize and planned how to design, develop, test and present a prototype of their design solution.

The entire robotics team went to the competition and worked hard to design an appropriate plane for each category. The team as a whole decided which plane had the best design for each category and that one plane was entered into the specific category and presented by four SIMS students. One plane, presented by Estefany Melgoza, Ruby Mattia-McMullan, Nicholas Webb, and Brody Russell placed third in the Distance portion of the competition. The students designed and constructed a glider that would glide as far as possible on the 25m x 5m course. Another plane, presented by Kamrun Gentle, Kaleb Butts, Anna Kay, and Emily Blackwell placed third in the Target portion of the competition. The students designed and constructed a glider that would land on a target 9 meters from the launch pad.

When asked about the competition, Ruby Mattia-McMullan said, “My favorite part of the competition was how we used trial and error to make our plane the best it could be.” Brody Russell said, “I enjoyed working with my teammates and I’m so glad Mrs. (Johnie) Cape took us. I was really proud of our team, learned a lot about engineering, and had fun too.” Mrs. Cape concluded by saying, “Teaching engineering to this group of students has been amazing. These students enjoy learning new concepts and even when we fail they don’t quit. They are able to learn from past failures, and it is that ability that makes their futures so bright. I can’t wait to see where these students go and what they accomplish.”

Crescent Student Wins Art Award

By Marlene Wiles

Congratulations to Honor Student, Kinley Grace Smith, Crescent High School Junior, who won 1st place in the National Beta State Mixed Media Art competition held in Myrtle Beach, SC. Her entry, Starry Night, Iva Version, is a stunning rendition of many of the Town of Iva’s historical landmarks including Rocky River Baptist Church, the Iva Gazebo, the original J. B Thomas and Son building, several Jackson Mill houses and the old Iva Movie Theatre.

Kinley is the daughter of Alan and Rhonda Smith. She attends Rocky River Baptist Church where she sings in the adult choir. Kinley also serves on the Tiger Tales yearbook committee and participates in the CHS SGA.

Although very proud of her accomplishment, Kinley gives much credit to her Art teacher, Kyunga Hill and her Beta Club Sponsor, Sherry Holbrook.

Eyes on Iva congratulates Kinley on this prestigious award and is very pleased the she used the Town of Iva as her inspiration.

Students Participate in Musicals at Flat Rock

By Krista Gray

Flat Rock students have had many exciting musical opportunities this school year under the guidance of their music teacher, Casey Beckum. First grade students participated in a spring musical called “Hats.” First graders shared in rhyme and song about the many different hats that can be worn on the outside but that none matter compared to what’s on the inside.

During the winter, fourth graders performed the musical “American Voices” which shared a brief history of important people and events in the United States. Through song, dance, and speaking parts, students shared everything from Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, to Martin Luther King, Jr. and landing the first person on the moon.

Third graders performed a Christmas musical called Jingle Bell Jukebox which helped get everyone in the Christmas spirit through it’s Christmas songs and dance. All of these musicals were presented for parents and community members during evening PTO meetings. Jingle Bell Jukebox was also performed for the student body at Flat Rock the day before Christmas vacation.

We are proud of our students and all they have accomplished in both academics and the arts!
CHS Student Council Earns National Recognition

A press release from the National Student Council reads, “For its exemplary record of leadership, service, and activities that serve to improve the school and community, the Crescent High School student council has been recognized as a 2019 National Gold Council of Excellence by the National of Student Council (NatStuCo). This is the third year that Crescent High School has earned this honor.

To meet the requirements for the National Council of Excellence Award, a student council must meet a variety of criteria. In addition to basic requirements such as a written constitution, regular meetings, a democratic election process, the councils have demonstrated successful sponsorship and participation in activities such as leadership development and service to the school and community. Councils awarded the gold level of the award have successfully demonstrated the highest levels of leadership.”

In addition to this school-wide honor, Ms. Amanda Pinson, Crescent’s SGA advisor, was awarded the SCASC Advisor of the Year Award. In the words of Mrs. Emily Wilson, Starr-Iva’s SGA Advisor, “Ms. Pinson goes above and beyond for our kids in Anderson Three. Because of her leadership, I was able to take fourteen SIMS students to the State Convention. Ms. Pinson, along with the SCASC, has given our students so many experiences and opportunities to lead, and I was amazed at what our students in South Carolina (ages 11-18) were able to do in regards to leadership. I’m so thankful that the SIMS students had this experience, and I’m even more grateful for Ms. Pinson’s dedication to our students in Anderson Three!”

Individual students were also recognized and honored at the State Convention as well. Haley Pepper was named District 6 Chair and Emilie Glenn was named in the Hall of Fame for Leadership. Additional school awards include the following: CHS won 1st place in their leadership project, 2nd place in their recognition project, and 3rd place in their video project. SIMS students did not submit anything this year, but certainly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to earning even more awards and recognition for Anderson Three in the years to come.

Your Ad Could Be Here!

EYES ON IVA is selling advertisement space throughout the newspaper. Eighth page and quarter page space are available.

Please contact eyesoniva@gmail.com for pricing and more information.

Starr-Iva Middle School Artwork of the Month

Artwork: “Tree Pose”

by: Jozie Stone
7th Grade
Media: Mixed

People’s Choice Award at the 2019 Fine Arts Showcase

A3 Fine Arts Showcase Winners

Iva Elementary
1st-Kailey Campbell
2nd- Macie Junkins
3rd- Renee Minchew

Starr Elementary
1st place - Kaitlyn Norris
2nd place - Kenlee Crawford
3rd place - Leilany Diaz

Flat Rock Elementary
1st place - Ansleigh Hamby
2nd place - Gabriele Gladney
3rd place - Karlie Elrod

Starr-Iva Middle
1st - Lillian DiLello
2nd - Chay Ellison
3rd - Caroline Yon

Crescent High
1st place - Kaz Pettus
2nd place - Tamela Jernigan
3rd place - Mackenzie Vincent

People’s Choice Award (through voting of audience)
- Jozie Stone, SIMS

Register Now For the Safe Harbor 5k Run and Cycle Tour

Join in for a fun evening 5k Run, an exhilarating early morning Cycle Tour, or if you’re really adventurous - you can do both! Be a part of this exciting event weekend, all in support of Safe Harbor’s services for victims of domestic violence and their children.

Run: May 31 @ 6:30pm - Anderson Civic Center. Gather at the Anderson Civic Center for a chip-timed 5K on a certified course. 5K registration includes: snacks and t-shirt.

Cycle Tour: June 1 @ 8am - Iva Civic Center. Enjoy a beautiful 25-mile, 42-mile or 65-mile metric century cycle ride through the rolling hills of southern Anderson County. This ride is perfect for experienced and novice cyclists alike! All courses begin and end at the Iva Civic Center in downtown Iva, SC. Cycle Tour registration includes: lunch pass, route map, snacks, and t-shirt.

For more details and to register, please visit townofiva.org/safe-harbor-cycle-tour.
**Starr-Iva Students Participate in Special Olympics**

*By Amy Russell*

Special Olympics was an amazing day with some pretty amazing people. The day started with SIMS SGA members sending off the Special Olympics participants in style. The SGA students lined the hallway, did cheers, and gave the Special Olympics students high fives as they headed to the bus. The SIMS participants exited the building wearing grass skirts, sunglasses, beach hats, necklaces, leis, and huge smiles as they headed to Belton Honea Path High School where the Olympics were held.

All of the beach attire, as well as handmade palm trees, school banners, and bubbles certainly paid off. SIMS students represented Anderson School District 3 with great pride and came home with the 1st place award for most school spirit. The entire SIMS student body also participated in the Penny Wars earlier in the school year and were recognized for raising $1000 which was the most money raised by any one school in all of Area 14. The teachers and students were thrilled to receive these two special first place awards.

As far as the actual events, SIMS students participated in numerous activities and also cheered on each other as well as students from other schools. Some individual awards are as follows:

- **Lily Goldsmith** - 1st place in the 50 meter fast walk
- **Savannah Hill** - 2nd place in the 50 meter fast walk
- **Ashtyn Grubb** - 3rd place in the 50 meter fast walk
- **Heidi Land** - 4th place in the 50 meter fast walk
- **Ashtyn Grubb** - 1st place in the softball throw
- **Killian Barnes** - 3rd place in the softball throw

Special Education teachers Nikki Simpson and Joanna Wiles also asked that we publicly thank Mrs. Shelia McGee for donating bubbles and for helping get the school spirit outfits together. They also wanted to send out a special “thank you” to Mrs. Kim Barnes for purchasing extra water, sunscreen, and leis for the class. Last, but certainly not least, they wanted to send a special thank you to SIMS faculty and student body for the amazing send off. Mrs. Nikki Simpson shared that, “Our kids and teachers were very touched by the gesture.”

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**Region Champs!**

*By Rayanna Cape*

Crescent High School has had a few region champions this spring season. Both the Crescent Lady Tigers softball team and Crescent Tigers baseball team won the region this year. After a close loss against the West Oak Warriors at home, the softball team fought against West Oak for a comeback win on the road.

The Crescent baseball team almost swept the region with only one loss, making them the undeniable region champs. Every day, both teams practice and go out of their way to make their dreams happen, and their communities and school are rooting them on as they prepare for the playoffs. Go Tigers!

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**Iva Rec Association Hosts a Successful Opening Day**

*By Amy Russell*

Parker Bowie Athletic Complex was full of life on Saturday, April 6 as the Iva Rec Association hosted this year’s opening day. Over 300 area kids played in their first baseball or softball game of the season when Iva Rec teams faced opponents from Starr, Anderson, and Belton Rec Associations.

According to Iva Rec president Nakia Davis, “It was a great day to kick off our baseball and softball season. We live in a wonderful community and opening day was a testament to that.” He went on to express gratitude for those in our community who support Iva Rec and the children who participate in athletics through Iva Rec. “Without the help of the local businesses that sponsor our teams, the parents and guardians who support these children, the coaches who are willing to coach our young athletes, those who officiate the games, and all of the people behind the scenes, Iva Rec would not be as successful as it is. It is through working together that we are best able to serve the kids in our community.”

During the spring, Iva Rec offers wee ball and tee ball for children ages 3-6 and baseball and softball for the age groups 8 and under, 10 and under, and 12 and under. Chances are you know a child who plays for Iva Rec so make plans to come out to the Parker Bowie Athletic Complex and enjoy a game or two. You can find additional information and pictures related to Iva Rec on the Iva Rec Facebook page or the Iva Rec Website. Play ball!

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**A3 K-4 Class Screenings**

Start gathering information to register your child for a Four Year Old Kindergarten screening:

1. proof of residency (example: power bill)
2. Medicaid card (if applicable) OR 2018 W2
3. Your Child’s immunizations
4. birth certificate

* Children must turn 4 years old on or before September 1, 2019 to attend K4 during the 2019-20 school year.

For more information, questions or concerns give us a call at (864) 352-3513. We look forward to hearing from you.
**Eyes on Sports**

**May 2019**

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**SIMS Baseball has Depth, Talent, and Works Hard**

By Amy Russell

This year’s Starr-Iva Middle School baseball team was blessed with an important factor in any successful baseball program—depth. According to Coach Marty Russell, “We are a very talented team that has players that can play multiple positions, and the boys push and challenge each other to always work hard.” Coach Todd Johnson added, “When guys are called upon to play a different position or take an at bat, they put forth their best effort with the correct attitude.”

Both coaches went on to reiterate how well the team works together as well as how hard the boys work. The team ended up with a 14-4 record and took the last game of the season to extra innings. The Tigers displayed their winning attitude and teamwork as they fought hard to win the last game 7-6 over Pickens. One of the umpires was quoted as saying, “I’ve never seen middle school kids play a game so hard.”

With young men on the field who display strong work ethic, consistently encourage each other, and who have a true love for the game, the future of Crescent Baseball is certainly promising.

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**First Annual Fun Run**

The CHS Cross Country team will be hosting the first annual RUN CHS XC Friday, May 24th at 6pm. RUN CHS XC is a 1.5 fun run for all ages to support Crescent High School’s Cross Country team. Participants will run half of the team’s course and get to experience what it takes to be a runner. Come out and enjoy running with your friends and family around Crescent’s campus. The run will start at the FFA arena, go through the practice soccer/football field, around the baseball stadium, in front of the school on HWY 81, circle the track surrounding the football field, and finish by passing the softball field on the way back to the arena. The $15 race fee includes a t-shirt and must be paid by May 10th. Entry forms (to the right) may be dropped off at Starr Iva Middle School to Dylan Jordan. Checks may be made out to RUN CHS XC. Any questions may be directed to Dylan Jordan at jordand@acsd3.org.

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**2019 SIM JV Softball Players and Coaches**


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**JV Softball Players Fight Like Tigers**

By Amy Russell

The Crescent JV softball team finished the season with a 6-7 record but, according to Coach Stephanie Campbell, the record does not reflect how well the team played. The JV schedule is set up in such a way that the team played a double header every time they stepped onto the field. Game days were often long days, but the Lady Tigers were able to fight back three times during the season to win a game in the fifth inning. Abbeville, Seneca, and Dixie fans, players, and coaches all left the field disappointed after the Tigers either came back in the bottom of the fifth or put up big runs in the top of the fifth and then held the opposing team to win the game. Coach Campbell said it best when she said, “These girls are special. They never give up and fight to the end.”

Coach Campbell went on to share that this young team, which had at least five seventh graders on the field at all times, improved at every practice and at every game. She stated that this group of girls worked well together, encouraged each other both on and off the field no matter the score, and had the type of attitudes that made the season both fun and successful. She concluded by saying, “These girls may be young, but they already fight like Tigers and are making Crescent Softball proud.”

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**2019 C-Team Baseball Manager, Players, and Coaches**


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**2019 SIM JV Softball Players Fight Like Tigers**

By Amy Russell

The Crescent JV softball team finished the season with a 6-7 record but, according to Coach Stephanie Campbell, the record does not reflect how well the team played. The JV schedule is set up in such a way that the team played a double header every time they stepped onto the field. Game days were often long days, but the Lady Tigers were able to fight back three times during the season to win a game in the fifth inning. Abbeville, Seneca, and Dixie fans, players, and coaches all left the field disappointed after the Tigers either came back in the bottom of the fifth or put up big runs in the top of the fifth and then held the opposing team to win the game. Coach Campbell said it best when she said, “These girls are special. They never give up and fight to the end.”

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**Participant’s First Name**

**Participant’s Last Name**

**Email Address**

**Age at Day of Race**

**Gender** Male Female

**Parent/Guardian Name**

*if participant is under 18*

**Emergency Contact Info**

Cell:

**T-shirt Size**

* I hereby release the sponsors and officials of the RUN CHS XC from all claims of injury or damage resulting from participating in these events. I realize these are strenuous events which require proper physical conditioning. I hereby certify that I am in proper physical condition to participate. I also am aware of and assume all risks with participating in the event, including, without limitation, risks of permanent injury due to falls, accidents, contact with other participants, acts or omissions of other participants, effects of weather, traffic, and conditions of the course/road.

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**Participant Signature**

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**Parent/Guardian Signature**

*if participant is under 18*
Local Artist Works with Students

By Sarah Jordan

To celebrate Youth Art Month and Music in our Schools Month, local artist, Sean Thrasher was invited to work with ten students from each school. He taught a clay workshop held at Starr Iva Middle School, and they created a slab clay box with a painted image transfer in the theme of “how music speaks to you”.

First Baptist Students Attend Spring Break Retreat

By Laila Rogers

Every year on spring break, people from churches all over South Carolina gather in Panama City, Florida for a retreat to bring them closer to God and worship Him in a comfortable and inviting environment. The youth groups from First Baptist Church of Iva, Gospel Light, Marathon, and East Pickens all came together to act as brothers and sisters in Christ... oh and to hang out on the beach. Even though those headed to the retreat got off to a rocky start with traffic jams and heavy rains on the first day, as the week went on, the weather improved and so did moods. Every day started off by spending some quiet time diving into our Bible and studying verses that related to the teachings of our charismatic and moving speaker, Will Hutch.

In the afternoon, participants had a few hours of free time to go to the beach, and then meet up with their small groups where they would interact with people from other churches and leaders would teach and discuss the topic covered during the devotional. After dinner everyone headed over for worship and singing along with Marathon’s praise team, and afterwards Will spoke. He consistently motivated participants to be the Christian uprising that society needs—the theme for the entire week. After worship, everyone met up with their church groups and reflected on the day and how God was working in our lives. Let’s just say that there were lots of confessions and tissues involved.

All in all, the trip was a success and brought participants closer to God and each other, despite all of the sunburn. Not only were plenty of people “baptized” by being thrown in the pool, First Baptist of Iva had 2 people get saved and 4 people actually got baptized in the beautiful ocean. This year’s trip was the best year ever, and it proved successful in bringing everyone closer to God and closer to each other.

CHS Students Named SC Teaching Fellows

Crescent High School Seniors Katelyn Rainey, daughter of Jimmy and Norma Rainey, and Andrew Parnell, son of Danny and Michelle Parnell, have been awarded the prestigious South Carolina Teaching Fellowship.

Drew will join the freshman cohort at Charleston Southern University while Katelyn will be attending Lander University this fall where they will both be offered numerous professional development opportunities and be involved with communities and businesses through various service projects and partnerships with local schools.

The state’s Teaching Fellows Program, operated by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA), was established in 1999 by the SC General Assembly. The mission of the program is to recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession and help them develop leadership qualities. Each year, the program provides fellowships for up to 200 high school seniors who have exhibited high academic achievement, a history of service to their school and community, and a desire to teach in South Carolina.

Applicants for the program undergo a rigorous selection process that includes an online application, an interview and presentation in front of a team of three educators, and a scored response.

Following the rigorous selection process, applicants who are awarded a Fellowship receive up to $24,000 in yearly scholarships (up to $6000 a year for four years) to attend a Teaching Fellows Institution in South Carolina. Each Fellow agrees to teach in South Carolina one year for every year he or she receives the Fellowship.

For more information about the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, visit teachingfellowsc.com.

African Drummers Visit Flat Rock Students

By Krista Gray

Flat Rock’s third, fourth and fifth grade students received a very special treat recently when they were visited by the West African Drummers Ensemble from Anderson University. These African Drummers are a part of Anderson University’s School of the Arts and perform for various events throughout the state of South Carolina. Casey Beckum, Flat Rock’s Music Teacher, extended an invitation for them to visit Flat Rock Elementary School and the students had a great time listening, learning, and dancing to the music.

The West African Drummers Ensemble captivates audiences through music and dance. Flat Rock students were able to play parts of the rhythm on drums for one of the songs and then learned dance moves for another. The Drummers were able to engage 190 students with rhythm and dance from West Africa.

Save the Date for Iva High Reunion!

Old Iva High School Reunion will be held September 28, 2019 at First Baptist Church of Iva 11:00 A.M. until 3 P.M. More information will be available later. Phone number to call 940-3980.
I do not like going to the dentist. In fact, I am pretty sure anyone who wants to go to the dentist is insane. The drills, the poking, the smell—I do not like anything about it. But, I do have to go every now and then. When I do go, just like everyone else, I brush all my teeth the night before extremely well, floss for the first time in 6 months and use a whole bottle of mouthwash. However, as you know, when the dentist checks my teeth, he sees the flaws in my routine of keeping my teeth clean. Sometimes when it comes to Christianity, we treat our relationship to Jesus like the dentist. We show up just on Easter or Christmas to look good. Or we show up to church Sunday morning looking the best but with our heart far away from God.

The Christian walk is a daily grind of prayer, love, scripture, confessing, grace and much more. It is not a one-time quick fix. In fact, we read in Isaiah 1 that God was tired of the Israelites’ sacrifices because they stopped valuing and living a life by God’s ways: “Bring no more vain offerings...they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them” (vv. 13-14). Why was He weary? Because they were doing evil deeds, not seeking justice; oppressing people, not helping the orphans or the widows (vv. 15-16). They were so focused on religious acts and services that they forgot what their job was. Can you imagine the Lord telling us to stop worshiping and stop going to church?

He tells the Israelites to stop because they are missing the point. They are so focused on looking good, quick fixes and checking a box that they missed the whole point of Christianity, which is loving God, loving others (orphans and widows especially), prayer, scripture and more. The quick fix of brushing, flossing and using mouthwash the night before helps you in no way when the dentist checks your teeth. Going to church and worshipping means nothing unless it goes beyond checking a box or making yourself look good. Your daily routine of loving God and loving others is what God desires. That way, when the day comes for your “teeth to be checked,” God says, “well done good and faithful servant.”

**Mildred Bostic Honored**

By Marlene Wiles

Starr Baptist Church honored Mildred Bostic on Sunday, March 3, 2019, for her fifty-five years of service as pianist/organist. She is still active in this position.

Mildred attended Anderson College as a music major and also worked at Peoples Bank for thirty years before retiring.

Prior to going to Starr Baptist Church, Mildred served as pianist/organist at Flat Rock Baptist Church in Starr, SC. She also taught piano and organ in her home for many years.

During the course of her service, Mildred has been a blessing to many in the Starr/Iva community. Eyes on Iva thanks Mildred for serving the people of our community and for staying true to the calling of God’s work in and around the Iva area.
Pro Towels Donates to Abbeville Promise Program

The Pro Towels Family of companies, including Pro Towels, Kanata Blanket Company, Superior and Neet Feet, made a $1,000 donation to the Abbeville Promise Program, a higher education scholarship program committed towards helping students in the local area.

The scholarship program was established by the Freshwater Coast Community Foundation to help bring access to higher education to any student who is a resident in Abbeville County. Pro Towels Family is excited to be a part of this scholarship program, as well as becoming a partner within the community by helping with future donations and events.

Andy Timmerman, Co-Chair of Abbeville Promise Campaign, states, “Pro Towels has been a wonderful corporate citizen in the Abbeville community. Their contribution toward the Abbeville Promise Campaign will enable us to “promise” every high school graduate in Abbeville County the opportunity to receive a two-year technical college degree at no tuition cost. It is our hope that this program will create a more qualified work force for all the industries and businesses in Abbeville and therefore make Abbeville a better community for all.”

Pro Towels is the largest towel supplier to the promotional product industry with locations on both the East and West coast. The company offers in-house screen printing, sublimation and embroidery services to support a broad product line of beach, golf, and sport towels. Additionally, Pro Towels carries bathrobes and other beach accessories to complement its towel line. The Pro Towels family of companies also includes Kanata Blanket Company, a leader in premium blankets, décor and lifestyle products, Neet Feet, a supplier of quality custom logo flip flops and premium footwear, and Superior, a leader in contract decorating for the promotional products industry for over 35 years.

The Abbeville Promise scholarship program will provide any Abbeville resident who earns a high school diploma the opportunity to earn an associate degree at Piedmont Technical College free of tuition and fees. The goal for the campaign to endow the Abbeville Promise scholarship program is $1.2 million. For more information about the Abbeville Promise or to donate, contact the Freshwater Coast Foundation at 864-446-2773 or abbevillepromise@wctel.net.

2nd Annual Miss Iva Pageant

The Town of Iva will host its second annual Miss Iva Pageant on Saturday, June 1 at Crescent High School at 6 PM. Any girl between the ages of 2 and 19 may participate. For more information visit the town Facebook page or email justasmalltowngirlsc@gmail.com.

Tornado Damage in Abbeville, SC

On March 1, 2019 Abbeville, SC felt the effects of the high winds of a tornado. Although there were no fatalities or injuries, there was significant property damage as shown in the photo. Learn how to protect yourself and your family during a tornado.

WHAT TO DO:

Stay away from windows.
If you have a basement get in it.
If you are outside get into a ditch and curl up in a ball as tight as you can.
If you are inside, get into an interior room (bathroom or closet) with no windows on the lowest floor in the house.
Stay low and try to get under something like a table. Cover yourself with a blanket if possible.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

Being in a vehicle is not safe during a tornado. Drive to the closet shelter, if possible.
If unable to make it to a safe shelter abandon your car and seek shelter in a low-lying area such as a ditch or ravine.

Don’t stay in a car, trailer or mobile home even if it’s tied down. Tornado winds can reach up to 300 mph and these simply provide no protection. Don’t take cover under a bridge or overpass. Tornado winds can actually accelerate under these structures and the structures themselves can collapse or come apart and turn into deadly flying projectiles. Get out, find a low place and cover your head.

If you are outdoors don’t seek shelter around trees, vehicles or other things that can become airborne projectiles. Find a ditch or depression, keep yourself as flat as possible and cover your head. Flying debris cause the majority of fatalities and injuries in a tornado so stay away from things that can blow apart or blow onto you.

Sunrise Seniors Enjoy Gospel Group

The Iva Sunrise Seniors listen as Gary Hart of HartStrings Gospel Group performs at the monthly meeting on April 11, 2019. The group meets each month on the second Thursday at 11:00am at the Iva Civic Center.
Calendar of Events

May 10th
Iva Library Closed
For Staff training

May 14th
Storytime at the Iva Library
Starting at 10:30 am.
For children ages 1-5
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday

May 15th
Circle of Hope
11:00 a.m.
Iva MAC Center – 205 Betsy Street
3rd Monday of each month

May 27th
Iva Library Closed
For Memorial Day

May 28th
Storytime at the Iva Library
Starting at 10:30 am
For children ages 1-5
Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday

May 19th
Brax’s Cars for a Cause (see page 11 for more details)
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Anderson Civic Center

May 30th
CHS Class of 2019 Graduation
11:00 am
Littlejohn Coliseum

June 1st
Safe Harbor Cycle Tour (see page 6 for more details)
8:00am
Iva Civic Center

June 1st
Miss Iva Pageant (see page 11 for more details)
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.
Apply now

June 30th
Town of Iva Fireworks (see page 10 for more details)
Starting at 6:30 pm

Habitat Happenings
By Kathy Secrist

Sometimes, the wildlife frivolity of spring gets out of hand and a pretty little birdie bonks his head on a window glass. When this happens, we try to help. We pick him up and hold him close to keep him warm until he gets over the shock and say a little prayer. This young cardinal was very receptive to our help and really didn’t want to leave…. Even though his friends and family were close by watching and concerned for his wellbeing.

May you enjoy the beauty of your spring days...and, not bonk your head.

Note from the Editor

I did not want to make the Note from the Editor a recurring thing, but several of you have encouraged me to continue writing a little something.

As you can see, I don’t have much room which is great! Please keep sending in news and articles. Even if we run out of space (like in this edition), we will try to put it in the next one. No article or news is too small or insignificant. As school winds down for the summer, we will need even more reporting from the community.

I want to thank you for reading and please continue to support our paper!

Anne Marie Rogers

Town Trivia

Last Month’s Question:

Iva was originally a shipping station for which railroad company?

Answer:
Seaboard Railroad

Steve Haynes was the first to answer correctly.

This Month’s Question:

What was the first model type care to be driven in Iva?

Send your answers in to eyesoniva@gmail.com

Mrs. Wakefield enjoys a party to celebrate her 100th Birthday

Writers & Articles Needed

Eyes on Iva needs reporters and news in and around Iva. If you are interested in becoming a regular writer, please contact eyesoniva@gmail.com. If you have upcoming events or want to submit a news article, please visit townofiva.org to submit your news or drop a note in our box at the Iva Town Hall.