The Peoples Bank Honored as the 2019 Small Business of the Year

Today, the Peoples Bank is still locally owned and operated with six branch locations. “We still consider ourselves a small business even with six branches and almost 300 million in total assets,” stated Mr. McGee. He added, “We are grateful for the trust and value our customers place in us and remain committed to meeting the banking needs of our local community.”

Town of Iva Receives Grants for Park Improvements

The Town of Iva has been awarded three new grants for continued park improvements. The Elsie Evans Memorial Park at the Iva Civic Center has been awarded funds to construct a second picnic shelter and to install new grills and picnic tables. “Many families use the park for parties and events throughout the year. Having an additional shelter will provide additional facility space for our residents” said Mayor Bobby Gentry.

The East Lake Street Park on the east side of town will also receive funding to construct a second picnic shelter, install swings and install grills. “We are hoping to make this park active, just like the Elsie Evans Memorial Park, by adding additional shelter and amenities,” Gentry said.

The Iva Gazebo and Plaza area will receive funding to relocate the four flag poles that are currently installed in front of the gazebo. The flag poles will be relocated to the veteran’s memorial area. Once relocated, the poles will be more visible from both the downtown area and Hwy 81. In addition to relocating the flag poles, decorative swings will be installed in the lawn area. The Mayor stated, “We always look for opportunities to beautify and improve our downtown area.”
Hunting & Fishing Report
by Marty Young

August is a tough time to fish. You have to go early in the morning, late afternoon, or at night. The head and humidity make mid-day fishing almost intolerable. Everyone is looking for the cool down—even the fish! Bass will school early and late and can be caught with deep diving crank baits or by drop-shotting 4 inch worms or flukes.

Crappie will be in the 20 foot range and can be caught with small minnows fished just over the brush or by jigging smallish jigs down in the brush. Also, you can do very well fishing at night under lights around the bridge pilings with minnows.

Catfishing at night will be the most productive and enjoyable fishing. Bait with cut herring, red worms, or chicken liver for the Channel Cats or bait with live bream for the big Flat-head catfish. Just bait up, set back, and wait for the rod to bend over!

Want to have some fun with the kids? Pick up some crickets and let them fish for bream around the docks or any stick-ups in the water.

September will bring cooler temperatures and cooler water. This will make the fish more aggressive and the fishing more enjoyable. But, you can still catch a mess of fish even in this heat!

Deer season will begin mid-September, and a lot of guys and gals will be out in the woods scouting and preparing deer stands. Some will even be plowing and planting food plots with high nutrient plants to improve the health of the deer herd. From the recent Deer Cam pictures, there will be some nice bucks taken this year. We will be having our yearly deer contest at Sportsman’s One Stop again. Stop by for details!

It's a beautiful area we live in. Get out and enjoy the outdoors every chance you get!

Eyes on Iva
September 2019

Hymn Singing to be Held in Iva

Do you enjoy singing the old hymns of the church such as “Amazing Grace” and “When we all get to Heaven” just to name a few? These and many more will be a part of the Hymn Singing taking place on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at Good Hope Presbyterian Church in Iva. This is a community event and everyone that loves to sing is encouraged to attend. Marlene Wiles, one of the event coordinators, stated, “I love music...any and all kinds. But the traditional hymns are the ones that lift my heart and move my spirit. Nothing compares to God’s people lifting their voices together in Praise to Him.”

Fall Pruning...or Not
by Tim Taylor

Most horticulture professionals will agree that the best advice to give concerning fall pruning is... don’t prune in the fall. Trees and hardy shrubbery turn their focus and energy to their root system in the colder season. If there are pruning wounds, the plant may not have time to heal. These wounds can leave the plant in a vulnerable state, which may lead to months of struggling. Pruning encourages growth...the plant is not trying to grow in the fall, it is going in its dormant stage. It is best to wait and prune in the spring after the threat of frost is over. Watering trees and hardy shrubbery in the fall will help them to prepare for their dormancy during the winter season. When the cold season hits, they tend to struggle to get water from the frozen ground. It is good to give the plants a deep watering after their leaves have fallen and before the ground freezes. Evergreen trees especially need this deep watering.

Don’t be disappointed about no pruning in the fall...the best activity is raking and mulching. Mulch will protect your plants during the cold season and will provide nutrients to their roots. Some say that leaves over the lawn during the winter is safe and good for the lawn. This is not so. Leaving a layer of leaves on your lawn may suffocate your grass or create a breeding ground for diseases. Thus, you should consider some raking. You can mow over your leaves in the early fall. This will provide nutrients to your lawn. You can use leaves to recycle into a compost as well.

When spring rolls around, your trees and shrubs will thank you by being healthy. THEN...its ok to prune!
Iva Offers Programs for Senior Adults

Antique Body Shop – The gym is open Monday - Saturday for seniors to exercise and socialize with others. The gym is located in the old Iva Fire Department, located on Antique Drive.

Sunrise Seniors – The group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Iva Civic Center at 11:00 a.m. The group enjoys entertainment and a meal at each meeting. The group also takes two trips throughout the year.

Circle of Hope – The group meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Iva MAC Center. The group enjoys games and activities.

BINGO – Bingo is held each Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Iva MAC Center.

Line Dancing – Line Dancing is held every Monday and Tuesday at the Iva Civic Center, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Union Baptist Church Welcomes New Pastor

by Marlene Wiles

On Sunday, August 18, 2019, Rev. Kyle Caudell presented his first sermon to a full house at Union Baptist Church in Iva. Originally from Red Hill, GA, Rev. Caudell graduated from Liberty University and served at Double Springs Baptist Church in Townville, SC for eleven years before accepting the current position of Pastor at Union. Rev. Caudell and wife, Annette, have three children, Kaylyn, a Nursing student at Tri County Technical College, Kaden, a Sophomore at Crescent High School, and Kendyl, an eighth grader at Starr-Iva Middle School. Rev. Caudell says he is here to serve and looks forward to working along side the other churches in the Starr/Iva Community.

Free books? Free movies?
Free learning and entertainment?

by Brianna McDonell

Free books? Free movies? Free learning and entertainment? It’s all yours with your free Anderson County Library Card. This September, the Anderson County Library System is joining the American Library Association and libraries nationwide for Library Card Sign-Up Month, a time to remind everyone that a library card opens up a world of lifelong learning, connection, and entertainment for the entire community.

To celebrate, the Anderson County Library will have a “Refer-A-Friend” program all September long for a chance to win a $100 Visa gift card. Participation is easy; tell a friend about the great things you’ve discovered at the library. Then, give them one of the Refer-A-Friend library card applications available at all library locations. Make sure to add your info at the top. When your friend gets their new free library card, you’ll be entered to win!

Five winners will be drawn for a $100 Visa gift card. To be eligible to win, you must be 18 years or older, a resident of Anderson County, and have a current, valid Anderson County Library Card by October 2.

Additionally, since having a library card is so important for lifelong reading, learning, and success, every child under 16 years old who receives their first library card this September will get a sticker, bookmark, a voucher for a free McDonald’s hamburger, and a Chick-fil-A treat card to mark the occasion.

With an Anderson County Library card, you can save money when you borrow instead of buy. Books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, and music are all available both at the library and digitally with the Libby (by Overdrive), Hoopla Digital, and Flipster apps. You can also learn something new 24/7, with access at home or on the go with online classes, investment research tools, genealogy resources, and business development databases. Finally, entertain your kids — or yourself — with weekly storytimes, after school programs, monthly crafting classes, and author and special events. Fishing poles and tackle boxes are available to check out at the Anderson Main, Powdersville, Pendleton, and Lander Memorial library in Williamston. The Anderson Main Library also provides a sewing machine, Silhouette Cameo, recording studio, Adobe Creative Suite, and virtual reality for public use.

Visit the Anderson County Library online at www.AndersonLibrary.org, on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram for questions or more information.

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Manley Garvin Representatives present a check for $5,000 to Abbeville Promise Gift Coordinator Lee Logan. 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.

Sonshine Sunday School Class Visits Member

The Sonshine Sunday School Class of First Baptist Church was invited to visit Kathy Secrist at her home for the August 11 Sunday School lesson. After the lesson, the class enjoyed lunch prepared by Kathy. Those in attendance were: Imogene Terry, Sue Butler, Judy Evans, Marlene Wiles, Brenda Earle, Louise McBride, Judi McBride, Jan Render, Charlene Campbell (teacher), Linda Keown and Kathy Secrist.

Save the Date for Iva High Reunion!

The Old Iva High School will reunion will be held Sept. 28, 2019 from 11-3. We would like to encourage you to attend if you are a graduate of the Iva High School. A registration will be mailed out on July 1, 2019. This form will give all the information including the cost of the meal. This event will be held at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center.

Be sure to keep your eyes on the mail! For any questions call 864-348-6544 or 864-940-3881 or 864-617-3885.

Iva Summer Nights
September & October 2019
Concert Schedule

Bring your lawn chairs, dance shoes and enjoy this weekly community event
Concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. each Thursday night

September 5th – “Second Time Around”
September 12th – “Combo Kings”
September 19th – “Split Shot”
September 26th – “Those Guys”
October 3rd – “Band Silver”

The Peoples Bank has Decorative Charm

by Tim Taylor

If you bank with the Peoples Bank in Iva and walk through their lobby, there is no doubt you have seen the beautiful decorations that are always on display in the glass foyer. At the change of each season, Mrs. Betty Cheek, known as “BJ” to the local area, uses her skill and talent to provide a seasonal display. Currently, BJ has the “Bear Creek Band” on display, which is a favorite she says, because of her love for nature. This display is particularly special because it includes items made by local residents. The musical instruments and bridge were made by Ben Turpin of Starr and the rub board is made by Linda Boyd of the airline road area.

BJ, a former teller at the bank, was always inspired by the smiles she would see as customers would look at the displays. “Smiles have been my inspiration”, says BJ. She has been decorating the bank foyer for 25 years. In addition to the foyer decorations, she also decorates the banks float for the Iva Christmas Parade each year. “It all started when I was eight years and participated in the Home Demonstration Club out of the Good Hope Baptist Church area.” “We would enter displays in the Anderson County Fair each year...that was always so fun,” BJ said.

Next up is the fall decorations, which will consist of pumpkins, hay bales and maybe some scarecrows. Christmas will consist of deer and Christmas trees. Thank you, BJ, for taking the time each season to provide the community with decorations that make us smile. Not only are your displays an inspiration, but you are an inspiration!
Crescent FFA Chapter Earns National Award

The Crescent FFA chapter of Iva, SC, has been recognized in 2019 National Chapter Award Program from the National FFA Organization.

The program recognizes outstanding FFA chapters from throughout the country that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve chapter operations using the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards and a Program of Activities that emphasizes growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership.

Chapters that received star ratings during judging in late July and will be recognized at the 2019 National FFA Convention & Expo, Oct. 30 – Nov. 2 in Indianapolis.

All star-rated FFA chapters receive honors made possible by corporate sponsor John Deere.

“Feeding some 9 billion people by mid-century brings with it unprecedented challenges for today’s farmers,” said Amy Allen, manager, national corporate contributions for John Deere. “The skills and experiences learned through the National Chapter Award Program will help meet the critical needs.”

The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 669,989 student members who belong to one of 8,630 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization is also supported by 459,514 alumni members in 2,236 alumni chapters throughout the U.S.

WCETEL Acquires IT Firm Etron
Managed Services Firm to Expand WCETEL Business Offerings

West Carolina Tel (WCETEL) recently acquired Etron Solutions, a Greenwood-based technology company that offers computer networking, cybersecurity, computer repair and other IT services for businesses.

Etron CEO John Lawrence joins WCETEL as its Enterprise Architect. His vast knowledge and experience, particularly in managed services, networking, cybersecurity, HIPAA compliance and IT services for the medical field, will allow WCETEL to expand its in-house expertise in these critical areas for local businesses. “Joining forces with Etron will allow us to better serve our businesses customers with critical IT managed solutions,” said Jeff Wilson, CEO of West Carolina Tel.

“We are delighted to welcome both John and Etron’s customers to the WCETEL family.”

“John brings a wealth of experience that deepens our ability to help businesses manage their technology needs,” said Chuck Nash, director of business solutions and network operations for WCETEL.

“I am excited about the possibilities to better serve our existing Etron customers by joining forces with WCETEL’s network operations team,” said John Lawrence, CEO of Etron. “I am confident that our team is well equipped to manage the IT and communications needs of businesses in our community, no matter how large or small.”

Current Etron customers will not see any substantial change other than billing will now come through WCETEL and they will have access to a wider variety of services, including commercial grade internet with speeds up to 10 Gbps, hosted voice, security systems, cameras, disaster recovery, cybersecurity and more.
The West Carolina Board of Directors held its annual member meeting at the Long Cane AME Community Development Center in Abbeville, SC on Monday, August 19, 2019.

Board president, Wes McAllister, called the meeting to order by greeting the members present at the meeting. The invocation was performed by Reverend Julius Johnson, from Long Cane AME Church followed by the pledge of allegiance led by WCTEL Board Member, Robert Hester. WCTEL's Attorney, Paul Agnew, verified that there was a quorum present. WCTEL Board Secretary, Jane Stone, read the notice of the annual meeting and the proof of mailing. McAllister introduced honored guests and board members. Then, Agnew unveiled the outcome of the election. Incumbent board members Lee Logan and Mike Thomas were re-elected to represent Due West and Iva respectively. New Member to the Board, Darren Lewis, was elected by majority vote to represent Abbeville. McAllister thanked Billy Bau- man for his years of service on the Board.

Wes McAllister began the President's Report with a review of all the events and pieces that WCTEL has developed for our customer’s education. McAllister gave a financial overview stating that WCTEL’s assets grew in 2019, while liabilities stayed consistent during that same time period.

WCTEL’s CEO, Jeff Wilson, followed with the CEO’s report starting with the recognition of loyal employees, interns, board members, and recent retirees. Wilson informed the members of the cooperative’s new partnership with the City of Newberry, the opening of the new Greenwood Office, and the acquisition of Etron Solutions. Finally, Wilson touched on WCTEL’s furthering of Business Development solutions, Customer surveys to improve customer satisfaction, the initiation of the McCormick and Calhoun Falls fiber projects, and the continued economic development through WCTEL’s partnership with the Freshwater Coast Community Foundation.

McAllister closed the meeting with a time for questions; and after hearing none, the meeting was adjourned. WCTEL would like to thank each and every member who makes up our cooperative and especially those who were able to attend the meeting.

Annual Chili Cook-off

Thursday, October 17th
6:30 p.m. - Downtown Iva

Featuring homemade HOT chili from local contestants, inflatables for kids, live music by “Band Silver”.

To enter the contest, contact the Town Hall at 864-348-6193

by Caroline Snellings

The 2019 Crescent FFA Cattle Show Team started off the show season with a very successful weekend at the SC Jr. Beef Round-Up! Several students placed in the top of their very competitive showmanship and breed classes. Kelsi Bradshaw won Grand Champion Charolais where she then advanced to win 5th Overall Champion Female out of the 170+ head of cattle that were registered in the show! To add to their accomplishments, Brent Erwin won Reserve Champion Intermediate Sales Talk and was the 11th highest scoring intermediate in the cattlemen’s contest, and Emily Wilson was the 13th highest scoring senior in the cattlemen’s contest. Emily was also a recipient of the $500 Anderson County Cattlemen’s Association Scholarship. Congratulations to the show team for their weekend full of success!

WCTEL Holds 67th Annual Member Meeting

Crescent Show Team Places at Top of Class

by Caroline Snellings

The Crescent Show Team had a great day at the Crescent FFA Livestock Show! In showmanship, each student on the team made it out of their showmanship heats and into the final drive, where they placed in the top of their classes. Kelsi Bradshaw won Reserve Champion in the Charolais Show and Nick Bowman won Reserve Champion in the % Simmental Show. Congratulations to everyone for a successful “home” show!
Cross Country Team Runs 100 Miles

Each summer, members of the cross country team are challenged to run 100 miles. This summer, we had coach Dylan Jordan and 12 students to qualify: Micah BrAnton, Jacob Holbrook, Jayden Phillips, Brody Russell, Jacob Ramsey, Lydia Gray, Sydney Broadwell, Ethan Hall, Mason Center, Morgan Dutton, Caleb Ramsey, and Michael McCall. Michael McCall, a junior, ran the most with 178 total miles. The entire team ran a total of 2,216 miles. The coaching staff are extremely proud of the hard work these student-athletes put in. To celebrate, the 100 mile club went to Helen, GA to go tubing on Saturday, August 10th.

Starr Athletic Association Hosts Volleyball Camp

by Marlene Wiles

A special thank you to all the volleyball players from North Greenville University, NGU Head Volleyball Coach Greg Mosley and Coach Amber Wiles with Upstate Volleyball Club for sharing their experience and skills with those who attended this camp. Thanks, also, to Starr Elementary School for the use of their gym.

Tiger Sighting at First Baptist Church

by Marlene Wiles

The Crescent Tiger Football Team and Coaching Staff attended Morning Worship at First Baptist Church of Iva on Sunday, August 4, 2019. Rev. Jerry Gray welcomed them to the service and offered the church’s support for the coming season as he emphasized the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Best wishes to Coach Sheldon Evans and the Tigers for a winning 2019-2020 season.

Iva Locals Participate in Trout Camp

by Tim Small

William Wieters and Spencer Wieters of Iva represented the Oconee River Chapter of Trout Unlimited at the camp.

Kids learned and practiced the sport of fly fishing, studied sound conservation practices, and enjoyed a fun and rewarding camping experience. Nearly 50 people donated their and expertise to mentor the kids. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service partnered with the event organizers.

For more information, go to www.GeorgiaTU.org.

Cross Country Participates in Midnight Flight

Seventeen of the CHS Cross Country runners participated in the Midnight Flight in Anderson on Friday, August 23rd. Lydia Gray came in first in her age group with a time of 23:09.
Habitat Happenings
By Kathy Secrist

“HEY...Have you had enough of this hot weather?”
Here at the Habitat it does seem like a bit much!

But, we are all blessed with the beauty of Nature.

Please enjoy your beautiful day !!!

Recipe of the Month

Squash Cubes in Sour Cream by Tim Taylor

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 4 cups cubes Hubbard Squash (1/4 of an 8-pound squash)
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- dash pepper
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon dill seed
- 1 cup sour cream

Melt butter in skillet. Add sliced onion, then squash; shake skillet to get an even layer of vegetables. Sprinkle salt, pepper, and sugar over top, add water, cover closely, and cook over low heat until squash is tender, about 20 minutes. (After 10 minutes of cooking, turn squash, using pancake turner to preserve cube shapes.) Just before serving, heat sour cream in top of double boiler, stirring constantly. Turn squash onto hot platter and pour cream over top. Sprinkle with dill seed.

Town Trivia

Last Month’s Question: Where was the 10U Girls Softball World Series tournament held this year?
Answer: Alexandria, Louisiana

This Month’s Question: Who from the CHS Cross Country team ran the most miles this summer?
Send your answers in to eyesoniva@gmail.com

Do you need a place to rent for an event?

Call the Iva Town Hall at 864-348-6193 to reserve a facility

Iva Civic Center - $115
Iva MAC Center - $80

Calendar of Events

September 2nd
Iva Library closed for Labor Day

September 5th
Circle of Hope
11:00 a.m.
Iva MAC Center – 205 Betsy Street
1st Thursday of each month

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

September 12th
REVIVA
9:00 am
Iva Town Hall

September 12th
Sunrise Seniors
11:00 am
Iva Civic Center

September 12th
Lewis & Clark Circus
5:30 & 7:30 PM
Iva Ballfield

September 24th
Storytime at the Iva Library
Starting at 10:30 am
For children ages 1-5

September 28th
Iva High Reunion
11:00am - 3:00pm
First Baptist Church Family Life Center

October 3rd
CHS Homecoming Parade
Starting at 6:00 PM
Downtown Iva