

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

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Economic Alliance details efforts

LEIGHTON BELL
Editor – The Link

Economic development was the focus of a lunch and learn event hosted last Wednesday by the Greater Cheraw Chamber of Commerce, where Chesterfield County Economic Development Alliance Chairman Sam Hancock and Chesterfield County Economic Development Director Brenda Workman served as guest speakers.

Hancock said the Alliance has identified three areas of focus that should lead to job creation within the county. The first area that must be addressed, according to the Alliance, is workforce development, followed by in-

frastructure and then recruitment.

"You'll notice recruitment is last because you've got to have those other two factors in place before you can effectively recruit," Hancock said.

Hancock began the presentation by giving a history of the Chesterfield County Economic Development Alliance, which was formed about a year ago as a private-public entity that focuses on economic development sans politics. The board is made up of industry and business leaders throughout the county, all with a financial stake in the alliance, who address concerns as business problems.

See ALLIANCE, 10A



Leighton Bell/Editor

Chesterfield County Economic Alliance Chairman Sam Hancock, who is also president of American Stainless in Cheraw, addresses a crowd gathered for a lunch and learn event sponsored by the Greater Cheraw Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday.

Prayer garden becomes a reality

SUSAN GRIGGS
Staff Reporter

The Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District and the South Carolina Campers on Missions recently partnered to create a prayer garden at the Connie Maxwell Children's Home (CMCH)-Adams Campus located in Chesterfield.

The prayer garden was primarily funded through two Low Country RC&D youth environmental education grants received in 2008 and 2009.

The grants provided resource materials for residents of the CMCH including bird and plant identification books that helped select the various habitat features in the garden.

An initial garden design was created by local designer Susan Robertson of Site Specific Designs, but the installation didn't become possible until this year. SWCD Commissioner William Griggs explained, "The SC Campers on Missions (COM) really made the installation happen."

Griggs said that COM designer Lu Broome was the driving force behind the end result.

"Lu took our initial plan, our donated plants and other materials, and put them



Susan Griggs/Staff Photographer

Pictured above from left, Wanda Lewis, Louise Denton, Virginia Martin, Ann McManus, Joyce Flowers and Lu Broome take a break from working to pose in a prayer garden on the Adams Campus of the Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Chesterfield.

all together. She used the gift that God gave her to create this fantastic place for the children," Griggs said.

Broome and eight others spent two days installing fence, plants, mulch and

an irrigation system in the garden. On breaks, workers saw butterflies immediately taking advantage of the blooms.

See PRAYER GARDEN, 10A

Miss Pageland Teen flies to Georgia to save dog

REBECCA ROLLINS
Staff Reporter

Since the joyous moment of her crowning, Miss Page-land Teen USA 2013 Laney Mungo has been busy finding "furever" homes for local shelter pets.

For the past few months, Mungo has operated her platform, a foundation called "Laney's Furever Home Project" to help find loving homes for less fortunate animals. One of the most recent, notable rescues took her to Canton, Ga., to rescue a beagle mix called Tex. The shelter in Georgia had contacted Mungo, relaying Tex was in a high kill shelter due to an owner surrender and would be put to sleep in 72 hours.

"They sent me a picture [of Tex], and once I had seen that picture, I knew I had to get to that dog," said Mungo.



Contributed

Pictured above is Miss Page-land Teen Laney Mungo with a pet from a local animal shelter. As part of her platform, Mungo is trying to find homes for abandoned animals.

Mungo was able to rally the help of Pageland resi- dent and pilot Billy Hogge to personally fly her to over 300 miles to Tex. They were able to bring the dog back safe and sound, and Mungo

See RESCUE, 11A

Irvin announces five-point platform for sheriff campaign

LEIGHTON BELL
Editor – The Link

Former McBee Police Chief and Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department narcotics investigator Michael Irvin held a press conference on the lawn of the old Chesterfield County Court house last Tuesday to announce his intentions of running for the office of Chesterfield County Sheriff in 2014.

"Recent events call into question the integrity of leadership in law enforcement, its role in our community and the

safety of our families and the community at large," said Irvin in his opening remarks.

"This is an important transition time in our community. Under my leadership, the sheriff's office will renew and rebuild its relationship with the public. And that relationship will be built firmly on a foundation of honor, integrity and respect."

During his candidacy announcement, Irvin laid out a five-point plan he hopes to implement if elected.

He said his first order of business will be the formation of an advisory council con-

sisting of individuals from each of the eight towns in the county.

"This 16-member council will have unprecedented access to me and my department," Irvin vowed. "They will advise me on all matters relevant to the communities they serve."

Irvin said he will also coordinate internal audits of all functions of the sheriff's department.

"I believe in order to have assets on hand to keep our communities safe, we must all

See IRVIN, 2A



Leighton Bell/Editor
Former McBee Police Chief and Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department narcotics investigator Michael Irvin, pictured center, announced his intention last week to run for Chesterfield County Sheriff in 2014. Filing for the seat opens in March.

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Region Reports

Lynches River Electric Cooperative members are being warned about individuals calling co-op members and claiming the members need to make an immediate payment with a

money card or risk disconnection.

The scammer warns that Lynches River will disconnect the member's electric service if the customer fails to make an immediate payment, usually within one hour. The thief

instructs the member to purchase a prepaid debit card and asks the member to call back with the prepaid debit card's receipt number and PIN number, which grants instant access to the card's funds.

If you receive such a call,

don't do what they ask. Hang up, and call Lynches River. We'll verify the status of your account.

Unfortunately, there's another twist on fraud—fraud by text.

See SCAMS, 2A

Lynches River Electric Cooperative warning of scams

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