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Times Extra



MAY 26, 2009 • CLARENDON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Children's librarian makes second appearance

By Sharron Haley

The new children's librarian at the Harvin Clarendon County Library isn't really new at all.

"I've been a working librarian for a long time," Debbie Wilson said last week as she sat overlooking the big red fire engine in the midst of the children's section at the library.

"Most recently I was the librarian at Clarendon Hall, but I was also here when this library opened more than 20 years ago."

The library's Wilson has come full circle.

The library is more crowded than two decades ago and the children's section has books on compact disc and audio cassette as well as an entire section for the Hispanic population, the Clarendon native said.

"The library has a good collection, but I'd like to add more," she said. "I love to see the expressions on a child's face as you're reading to them. You see such enjoyment. Their expressions are priceless."

Wilson said the love for read-

ing should be encouraged from a very early age.

"Children should be read to from the time they're born," she said. "The child begins to build a connection with whomever is reading to them. The words and meanings are important. Hearing the words and repetitiveness gets the child ready to read."

What's Wilson's favorite children's book?

"Purple, Green and Yellow" by Robert Munsch.

"It's a wonderful book," she said. "I love the repetitiveness. It's a fun book to read to children and they love it."

Wilson also said the library has summer reading lists from all of the county schools.

"We allow the students to set their own goals," Wilson said. "They read the books from their lists and when they've reached their goal they get to choose an item from the treasure box."

Not only do the students get to choose from thousands of hard-back and paper books, but they

can also enjoy books on CD, DVD, cassette tape and video, she said.

The children's library also has something for the smallest listeners, including puzzles and blocks. For the older children, the library has computer terminals the students can use to access the Internet for school projects and papers.

According to Wilson, the library should be a student's second home.

Wilson said the library should be the nucleus of a community.

"This is a wonderful place to meet people," she said. "You can meet people in the stacks as you're looking for your favorite author."

The library is also a wonderful place to let your imagination run free, she said.

"You can explore different career options as well as places all over the world," Wilson said. "You can always find interesting

SEE LIBRARY ... EIGHT



Children's librarian Debbie Wilson sits with a young reader in the fire truck in the children's section of the library. Wilson has a great summer reading program planned. All the fun starts June 1.

SHARRON HALEY/Manning Times

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

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"We have been putting in new procedures to help with the increased business we expect in the future. We're ready to serve a larger part of the surrounding communities than in the past. We're excited about Chrysler's future as well as our own," Smith added.

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SCV celebrates Confederate Memorial Day



Submitted Photo
U.S. Army Brigadier General (Ret.) Henry I. Siegling Sr., dressed in the uniform of the Washington Light Infantry, was the keynote speaker at the Confederate Memorial Day celebration, May 3.

By Stephen Douglas

On a beautiful and blustery Sunday afternoon, approximately 80 citizens assembled on May 3 at the courthouse lawn in Manning to witness and take part in the Confederate Memorial Day Ceremony conducted annually by the Col. Henry Laurens Benbow Camp #859.

The Benbow Camp is the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Manning. Opening with a canon vol-

ley by the Garden's Battery artillery group, bagpiper Ed Wilkes played a Scottish march as members of "B" Company, Palmetto Battalion in period uniforms marched to the Confederate monument.

They were followed by ladies in black mourning dresses. After a touching invocation by Dr. Steven B. Tollison, guests were welcomed and officers introduced.

Albert Jackson, commander of the camp and a World War II

veteran, recognized veterans of all the U.S. wars beginning with the Revolutionary War to the present war in Iraq. Each group was represented by an empty chair draped in black cloth with a hat or helmet from that war.

Jackson spoke of the costs of freedom and the price people of Clarendon County have paid throughout the years for that very freedom.

Captain Wayne Nettles, U.S. Air Force (Ret.) in full dress blues, saluted as the casualties

for each war were reported.

Everyone present took part in the pledges and salutes to the United States, South Carolina, Confederate and Christian flags led by 1st Lieutenant Commander Dickie Felder.

Rev. Samuel C. Thompson sang a wonderful rendition of "America the Beautiful" to set the stage for the key note speaker, Henry I. Siegling Sr., Brig. General U.S. Army (Retired)

SEE SCV ... EIGHT

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The Clarendon Scene ...



Submitted Photo

This year, 21 students from Manning Junior High School participated in the Mayor's Blue Chip Investors Program, a specialty program of the SC Stock Market Game. The program is sponsored by the SC Council on Economic Education and Mayor Kevin Johnson. This school year was the first time Manning Junior High School participated in the program. The winning team is pictured above at their celebration dinner with Mayor Kevin Johnson and Constance Dyson, SCCEE Program Coordinator, at Red Lobster Restaurant. Each team member and their teacher received a letter from the Mayor and a \$50 cash prize. Pictured are Constance Dyson, Mayor Kevin Johnson, Instructor Carolyn Fleming and students Tyleak Clark, Ricki Lynn Bumgardner and Keneshaw Pearson. Other student participants were: seventh graders John Nguyen, Mitchell Gardner, Patrick Bryant, Lanasha Brown, Adriana Chapman, and Frankie Durant and eighth graders Charlie Fout, Krystal Tow, Tatiana Ruiz, Brittany Peterson, Aliayah Daney, Tyshana Adger, Tyler Brunson, James Mitch Fleming, Siani Fooks, Josey Matlock, Javon Murray and Daniel Tyrelle.



Submitted Photo

Following the May 9 National Association of Letter Carriers' food drive, members of the Manning Post Office donated 1,175 pounds of food and donated it to the United Ministries of Clarendon County for their food pantry. Pictured are Jimmy Patterson, Postmaster Ron Wingard, United Ministries' board member Ted Johnson, Desmond DeSilva and Ron White.

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All aboard the Northern Polar Express



CHRIS BULLARD/Manning Times

Susan Heath spends time with 3-year-old Estep, a male lab-hound mix at the Animal Shelter of Clarendon County who is likely to be on the next Northern Polar Express trip.

By Chris Bullard

Almost one year ago Susan Heath along with good friend Patsy Topping started the Northern Polar Express, a service that transports dogs from the south to animal shelters in New England hoping to transport 200 dogs by the end of June.

"Patsy and I have been able to take 170 dogs up north, the majority of them from this shelter (Animal Shelter of Clarendon County)," Heath said.

Heath, who splits her time

three ways between Sumter, Poundridge, N.Y. and Nantucket, Mass., started the service after noticing the excessive number of stray dogs in the south — a problem she had never seen up north.

One example of this problem is Martha, a dog Heath found a year-and-a-half ago who was abandoned twice and continually contracted heartworms after being cured due to lack of prop-

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LIBRARY

from page 1

places around the world to explore.”

“The children should feel free to come in and browse the book shelves,” she said. “Where else will they be able to enjoy so much and it’s free to boot?”

Wilson said that starting in the fall, the library will be featuring story times for children age six months to 3 years old as well as programs for older children, pre-teens and teenagers.”

The library also has a section of easy reading non-fiction books for younger readers.

“These are great books with

very few words and lots of great pictures,” she said.

Wilson also said the library has a rocking chair for mothers and grandparents to use when reading stories to their toddlers.

Beginning June 1, the library kicks off its summer reading program with “Be Creative at Your Library.”

“We’re featuring music, dance, art and creative writing,” Wilson said. “I’ve encouraged several people to attend and teach the classes.”

The first program will target the six- to twelve-year-olds.

“We’re going to have a sidewalk chalk party,” she said. “It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

The summer reading program will also feature a segment on crafts.

Registration for the summer reading program begins June 1.

All students between the ages of three and 12 are encouraged to attend.

On June 10, the library is hosting the Great Fettucini, a wonderful juggler.

On July 1, the library is hosting a magician, Zeinick.

Wilson said other story times and activities are being planned.

The library needs help from the community in staffing many of the library’s events.

“We need some volunteers to help with our programs and to just sit, rock and read to our

youngsters,” Wilson said.

The program for students between the ages of 13 and 18 is titled, “Express Yourself @ your Library.”

To register, drop by the library at 215 North Brooks Street or calling 435-8633.

SCV

from page 2

and of the Washington Light Infantry.

Dressed in the formal uniform of the WLI, Gen. Siegling gave a brief history of the unit and continued on the theme of the costs of the freedoms that are enjoyed today.

He recognized the suffering the Confederate soldiers had to endure as well as their families who were left at home.

Siegler noted that a large number of men from Clarendon County were members of the Washington Light Infantry who fought in many U.S. wars.

Following a moving hymn by Rev. Thompson, Sophia Morris and Trevor Tollison placed a wreath of remembrance at the base of the Confederate monument as the bagpipes played

“Amazing Grace.”

A 21-gun salute was offered by “B” Company, Palmetto Battalion, and then the somber tune of “Taps” rang through the square played by Foster Boone on the trumpet.

Dr. Tollison closed the ceremonies with an inspiring benediction and the volley of canon signaled its conclusion.

The bagpipes began to play “Dixie” and was soon joined by the voices of the crowd in attendance singing this old, favorite Southern song.

Clarendon County’s Confederate soldiers were honorably memorialized, as were all her sons and daughters who fought throughout the years so we could enjoy the freedoms we have today.

EXPRESS

from page 7

er care. Martha now lives with Heath’s daughter in Charleston.

“What got me started is coming to South Carolina and seeing dogs everywhere. You get the feeling that these dogs don’t belong to anybody,” explained Heath. “It’s a difficult process. Up north there is a spay and neuter program that works. Northern shelters are leery to take southern dogs.”

Some of the qualifications for dogs to be transported up north include a two-week quarantine, up-to-date vaccinations, no worms, coccidia or giardia and be spayed or neutered.

“This shelter is so important to us because this shelter follows the protocols we need to transport dogs. Up north they want to know they are getting healthy animals. That’s sort of a big bill to fill,” Heath said. “We’ve been lucky to have people we know to help cover the cost.”

The dogs are transported to shelters in Vermont and New York that Heath is connected with by an on-call retired trucker who is willing to make the drive for Northern Polar Express. Occasionally dogs are flown or taken individually.

On the last trip, eight puppies and eight adult dogs were moved. The next potential transport is scheduled for June to take eight puppies to Vermont and 15 puppies and adult dogs to New York.

Heath’s original plan was to transport dogs once a month, but the success rate has led to taking a trip up north every two weeks.

One example of this success is Mocha, a 3-year-old lab who has spent her entire life in the Animal Shelter of Clarendon County. Mocha was transported up north in the beginning of May and after spending two weeks in a northern shelter, she is soon to be adopted.

“The real difference is you don’t have the stray dog population up north that you do here. As much as we do, it’s just a drop in

the bucket. The only way to fix the problem is to spay or neuter your animal. Everything else is just a bandage,” Heath said.

As an avid animal-lover and owner of six dogs, Heath pleads for the public to take responsibility.

“Treat your animal like a family member. Keep it healthy, have it spayed or neutered and keep its vaccinations up-to-date. Letting your dog have puppies because you think it would be good for your children to see is irresponsible,” she said.

A lack of public responsibility has led to a problem for Clarendon’s Animal Shelter, which is currently closed due to a recent parvo outbreak.

The shelter is putting forth a strong effort to control the incident by temporarily closing for two weeks and not accepting or adopting any animals 14 days after the last outbreak. In the meantime, they are having to bleach the entire grounds in order to contain the outbreak.

“If people would just have their dogs immunized, shelters wouldn’t face these problems,” Heath said.

Northern Polar Express is hoping to gain more financial support in the future in order to transport more dogs. Heath also wants to help promote local spay and neuter programs along with prison programs that allow inmates to raise and train dogs.

For more information about Northern Polar Express or the Animal Shelter of Clarendon County, call 473-7075 or visit online at www.ascc.rescue-groups.org/.

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NBSC
111 W BOYCE ST MANNING 803-435-5100

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Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce
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25 E Boyce St Manning..... 803-435-0087

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