



FEBRUARY 2, 2024 EDITION

FEBRUARY 2, 2024



the Aggie Life



**Giving
Our Aggies
A Big Hand!**

MARCH 2, 2024

BEEF SHOW
FIELD TRIAL
GOAT SHOW
DAIRY SHOW
SWINE SHOW
HORSE SHOW
FISHING TOURNAMENT
RABBITS & POCKET PETS

AG FEST



SC Governor's School
for Agriculture
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

INSIDE THIS EDITION...

3

GIVING OUR SENIORS A HAND

Parents organization honors seniors with party and commemorative banner

4

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Aggie revisits her former elementary school on project to avert shooting heartbreak

6

CLEMSON VET DEAN VISITS

The founding dean of Clemson's new veterinary college visits our campus

8

WELCOMING FUTURE AGGIES?

Field trip season is fully underway as schools visit to learn more about farming

10

THE TOP OF THE CROP

Recognizing the honor roll recipients and the top GPA residence hall

12

LOOKING AHEAD TO AG FEST

Preparations are underway for our spring 'Super Bowl' of livestock shows



COMMUNITY

Giving Our Seniors A Big Hand!

JDLH Parents Organization Honors Graduates With Ice Cream Social

Our school's incredible Parent-Teacher-Aggie Group recently hosted an ice cream social in the school cafeteria to honor the Class of 2024.

The event gave these outgoing Aggies an opportunity to sign a commemorative banner provided by Josten's and to plant their handprints on the banner with paints of their favorite colors.

The ice cream social was just the latest example of how our Aggie parents are showing their love for our students and our school's mission. For more information on joining the Parent-Teacher-Aggie Group, contact members of our outreach staff or send an email to aggieparentgroup@gmail.com.



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Allie Taylor Returns To Elementary School To Prepare For The Unthinkable

STAFF REPORT

A tragic reality of life in the 21st century is the ever-present threat that someday, somewhere too close to home, a horrific school shooting might forever shatter a community's sense of security.

Allie Taylor, a senior, recently returned to her hometown to help teachers and students at her former elementary school be better prepared if the unthinkable should ever happen there. Allie traveled with her FFA advisor Mr. Hunter Morton to deliver 15 emergency response kits to Mount Lebanon Elementary in Pendleton.

The outreach project was inspired by Allie's visit last year to the FFA Washington Leadership Conference, where she was challenged to identify a possible solution to a community problem. Also on Allie's mind was her memory of a 2016 shooting at Townville Elementary School, just 17 miles from Mount Lebanon, in which a 14-year-old gunman shot three students and a teacher, killing a six-year-old boy.

"It was just really hard for all of us," Allie said, remembering that horrible Wednesday. "I wanted to do something because, even though I am here, when we get those warnings at home I worry because my mom is a teacher and my brother still goes to those schools."

Allie partnered with a company called TacMed Solutions, based in Anderson, that manufactures emergency response technology used by the military, law enforcement and the medical



Allie Taylor (right) presents the emergency preparedness kits to officials at Mount Lebanon Elementary.

community. One of the products produced by TacMed is a bleeding control kit equipped with a tourniquet, gauze, bandages and gloves.

The six-year-old killed in the Townville Elementary shooting succumbed to blood loss from a gunshot wound to his leg.

"This project was really important to me because I listened to all those stories of parents who will never get to tell their children they love them again," Allie said. "I don't think that any parent should ever have to feel that way."

In addition to the emergency response kits, Allie also raised money to give each teacher in the school a hammer to use as a potential first line of defense against an intruder.

"It's not going to stop any of the

school shootings, but if something were to happen, maybe these kids and these teachers will have a little bit better chance at survival," she said.

After donating these first emergency kits to Mount Lebanon Elementary, Allie has set out to raise additional funds to expand her project. She has asked the Anderson County Sheriff's Office Foundation to provide support to place more of the bleeding control kits – which retail for \$88 apiece – in area schools.

"My hope is that I'll get to continue throughout the district and maybe even districts that aren't my own," she said, adding that she hopes "people will hear about my project and they will feel the connection and they will start in their own communities."



Governor's School alumnus Collin Greene (far left) was on-hand recently as STEC Equipment Inc. of Anderson dropped off a new Kioti HX tractor for our current Aggies to demo. Collin now works with STEC Equipment.



During the recent 4-H Horse Bowl and Hippology Contest at the Clemson Extension Office in Anderson, Macy Hudson placed 5th High Individual and 3rd Overall in the Hippology test. The team placed 6th Overall in the State. Team Members were Macy, Emily White, Brooklyn Glassburn, Ty Morton and Kelly Tasch.



Gray Gardner, a senior Aggie, recently excelled in the annual South Carolina Meat Goat Project final show. Gray picked up the \$800 scholarship, 3rd Place Overall Intermediate Showman, 4th Place Overall Market Doe, Individual 4th Overall High Score Quiz Bowl, 4th Place Overall Senior Showman, and 5th Place Senior Record Book.



Blake Arias was among the Aggies in Mrs. Rhodes' classes who assisted in growing lettuce and arugula that has been harvested and served in our school cafeteria in support of our sustainability efforts.



Dr. Stephen Marks, the founding dean of Clemson University's new vet school, stopped by our equine center during his recent campus visit.

CLEMSON VET DEAN VISITS

Could New College's First Graduates Include Some Aggies?

STAFF REPORT

The founding dean of Clemson University's new College of Veterinary Medicine recently toured the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture, and some of the college's first veterinarians could come from this groundbreaking residential high school.

Dr. Steven Marks was announced last July as Clemson's choice to lead the launch of its veterinary school. The \$110-million project is expected to begin site work this April on 87 acres near Clemson's Experimental Forest. The first students could begin work on earning their DVM degrees in 2026.

"We're very excited to have the first college of veterinary

medicine in South Carolina," Dr. Marks said. "We'll be using a distributive model. That means we will offer at least three years of pre-clinical training, and then the fourth year of clinical training will be distributed out to community veterinarians, community hospitals throughout South Carolina, some western North Carolina and in Georgia."

A group of Governor's School for Agriculture students met with Dr. Marks and were encouraged to begin preparing themselves to apply for admission to the rigorous veterinary school program.

"What's really incredible about the Governor's School is that these students are getting an education in agriculture that they would not normally be able to attain until they went into college," Dr. Marks

said. "These students will be very prepared for college, which will facilitate them being successful in college. If they still have the interest in agriculture and animal science, they will be the perfect students to be recruited into a career in veterinary medicine, and specifically to be trained at Clemson University."

According to Clemson, about a third of South Carolina's counties have fewer than five practicing veterinarians, and in 2022 nearly 200 students from South Carolina were enrolled in veterinary programs at colleges outside the state. Currently, the state of South Carolina spends around \$6 million per year on tuition coverage for 46 students from South Carolina to pursue veterinary education at Tuskegee University, Mississippi



This artist rendering of the new College of Veterinary Medicine shows how the new school will blend into the area around the Clemson Experimental Forest.

State University and the University of Georgia. The first graduates of the Clemson College of Veterinary Medicine are expected to graduate in 2030.

Just this week, Clemson announced that its new program has joined the international Consortium of Workplace Based Education and Learning (COWBEL). The consortium is a collaboration of universities and colleges around the world who provide real-world learning opportunities for their students.

The new Clemson vet school will "leverage state partnerships with industry and clinical enterprises," according to a university release, and the distributed teaching model is expected to save the university more than \$350 million in capital costs and \$60 million in operating costs.

The visit from Dr. Marks to our campus also laid the groundwork for a likely future partnership



Dr. Marks visited with prospective veterinary students from our school during his time on campus.

between Clemson and the Governor's School for Agriculture.

"We want to also provide internship opportunities for Dr. Marks' future students, and we've offered our campus also to serve as a laboratory for anything that

the College of Veterinary Medicine night need," said Dr. Timothy Keown, president of the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture. "We think this will be a really valuable partnership between our two schools."



Mr. Eric McCall and Mrs. Heather Rhoden instruct a group of field trip attendees in how two orphaned calves are being bottle-raised in one of our barns.

WELCOMING FUTURE AGGIES?

Field Trips Bring Younger Students To JDLH To Learn About Farming

STAFF REPORT

Field trip season is underway here at the South Carolina Governor’s School for Agriculture. That brings students from all across the two-state area to visit with our students and staff and learn more about life on the farm.

In the past two weeks alone, groups from Longleaf Middle School in the Blythewood community near Columbia and a home-school cooperative from Greenwood County traveled to our campus. Here, they were exposed to the daily mission to keep our livestock healthy and happy and to prepare our garden patches to grow food and flowers.

“It’s super important for students to come visit our classrooms because they get to immerse themselves in agriculture where they normally wouldn’t, and it also gives our students here on campus an opportunity to work on ag education skills if they plan to go into that in college,” said Mrs. Kaitlyn Rhodes, whose horticulture class welcomed a group of elementary-age homeschoolers recently.

Aggies in Mrs. Rhodes’ classroom led the visiting



students in planting seeds into cups they could take home and nurture into a full-grown plants. Our students also taught their younger charges the essentials of plant growth using an acronym LAWNS: light, air, water, nutrients and space

Courtney Robivich, one of the homeschool mothers in attendance, praised the field trip activity as a wonderful resource for their students. “We’re always looking for activities to encourage

them to grow and learn in nature and to do things that are hands-on, if possible,” she said. “I want my child to know where their food comes from.”

The visiting middle-schoolers from the much larger community around South Carolina’s capital city learned from farm manager Mr. Eric McCall, equine instructor Mrs. Heather Rhoden and other farm staff about the care of two orphan calves who now are being bottle-fed following the tragic

death of their mother. The middle-school students – who giggled and made faces as they got their first whiffs of the air around the barns – also had the opportunity to see a litter of baby pigs up-close and meet their protective mama

Field trips for schools and other organizations may be reserved through our Education Center, and our outreach coordinator Mrs. Kinsley Miller and her staff do a tremendous job of welcoming visitors to our campus.

The Top Of The Crop

Second Quarter Honor Roll And Top GPA Residence Hall Announced



Congratulations to those Aggies who attained **All-A Honor Roll** for the second quarter: Blake Arias, Benjamin William Bronson, Dylan Michael Buck, John Christopher Chandler, Sara Elizabeth Corn, Lewis Cadence Davis, Lilly Kayte Fox, Jahira Elaine Freeman, Elizabeth Gray Gardner, William Caleb Gordon, Alexis Grace Hanna, Ja'Davion Simeon Hicks, Lynzie Nicole Hodge, Annabelle Grace Horton, Claire Marie Littleton, Kinley Marie Metts, Jacqueline Marie Oliver, Katharine Ruth Ostergaard, Riley Alyssa Owens, William Robert Steigerwald, Ella Reed Taylor, Sierra Grace Tinsley, Victor Simeon Venturini, Grace Rebecca Viseth, Emily Paige White.



Congratulations to those students who achieved the **A-B Honor Roll** for second quarter: Ross Durham Arthur, Samson Benjamin Bennett, Gordon Logan Doty, Timothy Carlyle Fulmer, Allie Dawn Gentle, Macy Alizabeth Hudson, Michael Kelly Johnson, Zachary Shawn Lawson, Osceola Jack Windsor Mason, Ian Joshua McCoy, James David Miller, Mayson Olyvia Miller, Leah Morgan Mitchem, Eli Davis Moore, Tamiah Jae Donae Nunnally, Kaylee Autumn O'Neal, Preston Patterson, Asa Faith Simmons, Kelly Lee Tasch, Allie Marie Taylor, Elizabeth Ann Viseth, Leona Joyce Weber.



The students in the Savannah residence hall earned top honors for the highest collective GPA during the second quarter and claimed the championship belt.



Eli Moore and Jay Hicks were named the Aggies of the Month for November and December, respectively.



Three of our students earned National Horse Judging Team Coaches Association certificate for equine management and evaluation, while others earned the Elanco Veterinary Medical Applications certification.