



April 26, 2024 EDITION

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the Aggie Life



PRESERVING THE PAST

Introducing Our New Museum

INSIDE...

- Prom Night
- FBLA Success
- Celebrity Chickens
- Witnesses To History



Mr. Bobby Edmonds, historian and one of our school's most devoted supporters, was interviewed during his birthday week by Journal-Messenger editor John Stone.

Honoring Mr. Bobby Edmonds

Friends and family gathered at the Education Center here on April 6 to pay tribute to Mr. Bobby Edmonds on his 92nd birthday and to hear him discuss his long, rich life and his recently-published history of our school and its namesake.

Mr. Edmonds, a prolific writer, has researched and authored a book exploring the life of Dr. John de la Howe, the good doctor's legacy and the evolution of our school from 1797 to its current mission. He sat for a conversation with John Stone, editor of the *Journal-Messenger* newspaper.

Mr. Edmonds also answered questions, posed for photos and signed copies of his books for well-wishers. Thank you, Mr. Edmonds!



Growing Together

Community, Parents Share In Success Of Spring Plant Sale

STAFF REPORT

It was a very busy springtime at the greenhouse for horticulture teacher Mrs. Kaitlyn Rhodes and her students – and the great reputation of our Aggies around the community continues to grow as beautifully as the thousands of plants offered at this year’s wildly successful spring plant sale.

“Spring Plant Sale 2024 was a whirlwind of outpouring blessings from the community of McCormick and other surrounding counties,” Mrs. Rhodes said. “Our Aggie parents never fail us either, always supporting our students inside the classroom and greenhouse.”

The students and Mrs. Rhodes were assisted during the sale by members of the McCormick County Garden Club under the direction of Mrs. Phylis’s Roth.

“As a first-year teacher at the SCGSA, I was blown away by the community. They truly never fail our campus or students,” Mrs. Rhodes said. “Horticulture is a leading industry in agriculture, and while



Teamwork among our horticulture students, members of the McCormick County Garden Club and parent and alumni volunteers created a successful climate for the Spring Plant Sale.

planting seeds may not seem big, it sure is amazing seeing students watch them grown as well as watching as my students have grown with knowledge.”

The horticulture classes also enjoyed another sweet success this season, returning from spring break to find the strawberry plants outside the greenhouse bearing fruit. Part of the harvest will be served in the school cafeteria in the coming months.

For those who didn’t get their plants during this month’s sale, a few more Governor’s School plants remain to add a bit of our campus to their yard or backyard garden.



Four student leaders -- Lyle Fulmer, Jahira Freeman, Gray Gardner and J.C. Chandler -- recently attended Governor Henry McMaster’s signing of the new Agricultural Bill designed to protect more South Carolina farmland from development. Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers and Rep. Patrick Haddon joined the students.

Witnessing Ag History

Student Leaders Invited To Share In Farm Preservation Bill Signing

STAFF REPORT

Once again, four of our Aggies were recognized for their roles as future leaders in Palmetto State agriculture when they were invited to witness the historic signing by Governor Henry McMaster of a new agriculture bill passed by the state General Assembly.

Student body president J.C. Chandler, Gray Gardner, Jahira Freeman and Lyle Fulmer donned full FFA dress and attended the ceremony at Cottle Strawberry Farms near Columbia. Afterwards, they were greeted by the Governor, state Rep. Patrick Haddon and Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers. Our president Dr. Tim Keown and Residential Life director Dana Martin also attended the ceremony. Great job, Aggies!



Our Aggies were front-and-center with other statewide dignitaries for this ceremony at Cottle Farms.



Staff members from the Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum of South Carolina at Pendleton recently visited our campus to train members of our staff on how to share the stories of items now on display at our iconic dairy barn. The museum will become an integral part of teaching agritourism and agribusiness here on campus.

PRESERVING THE PAST

Consultants from Upstate Museum Assist With Setting Up Our Newest Project

STAFF REPORT

Artifacts from the colorful history of South Carolina agriculture soon will be on display for all to see at our iconic Dairy Barn.

Our school recently inherited the entire collection of the former National Heritage Corridor Museum in Blackville, which had been on the campus of Clemson University's Edisto Research Center. The museum was closed to make way for for more dorm space for graduate students.

Last summer, a hard-working team of our maintenance and farm staff members relocated the items from Barnwell County. Volunteers from the Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum of South Carolina near Clemson traveled to our campus



The dairy barn soon will open for exploring hundreds of artifacts, including this vintage kitchen diorama.

last fall to assist with preparing the hundreds of artifacts for display.

Mr. Les McCall, brother of our own farm manager Eric McCall, along with Josh Johnson, Jordan Bannister and Andrew Stevenson from the Garrison Museum returned recently to train our staff to describe the exhibits to visitors. Our new museum is slated to open for tours during the upcoming McCormick County Ag+Art Tour on Saturday, May 4.

"All of us are enormously appreciative of the partnership, and I think it's a natural fit between the Governor's School and our agricultural museum," Mr. Les McCall said. "I know we had a lot of fun on the project."

Among the highlights are an early 20th-century kitchen with a stove once fueled by kerosene, a variety of planters and plows, and even a hollowed-out tree that served as a trough for curing meat with salt.

For the Ag+Art Tour, the upstairs of the dairy barn will feature a retired traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian Institute called "Barn Again." The multi-paneled exhibit traces the history of American barns and their importance to agriculture.

"The partnership, that's what's crucial to all of us who are involved in agriculture and agricultural history -- to reach out, branch out throughout the state," Mr. McCall said.



Among the artifacts on display are an old-timey meat-curing trough hewn from a log and a section on how mules and other beasts of burden were essential to early farming techniques.





Blake Arias, Lyle Fulmer, J.C. Chandler and Emily White welcomed eight baby chicks hatched at the South Carolina ETV studios in Columbia to their new home here.

Our Fine Feathered Friends

'Celebrity Chicks' Hatched At ETV Studios Move To Our Farm

STAFF REPORT

Eight new residents of the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture are growing quickly and already showing signs of progress less than a month after arriving on our campus.

Two staffers from South Carolina ETV arrived in mid-April with baby chickens that had been hatched on Sunday, April 7 at the ETV Studios in Columbia. These chicks began the life in the spotlight in a conference room at ETV, where their eggs were the subject of a livestream designed by the state television network's education department.

"We monitored that 21-day process on our social media account, and we have created lesson plans and interactives that go along with embryology but also with eggs and STEM (science/technology/engineering/mathematics) in general," said Samantha Reynolds, ETV's curriculum manager.



The eggs were a gift from students in Richland School District One and the Columbia-area 4-H. "Since then, we have been monitoring their development through handling and looking inside those eggs...but they have been with us at ETV outside of those shells for about a week," Ms. Reynolds said on the day the chicks were delivered.

Since the eggs hatched during the NCAA Women's Basketball National Championship game, which was won by the University of South Carolina Lady Gamecocks, one of the chicks was named in honor of USC coach Dawn Staley. Others also were assigned names by ETV staff.

The folks at South Carolina ETV knew that the chicks would have an extra-special home here on the John de la Howe campus.

"We're really excited that Dr. Keown said yes to us when we reached to see if he would be willing adopt these baby chicks and use them to support learning here," said Dr. Salandra Bowman, Chief Learning Officer at ETV. "We've had some partnerships and collaborations with the school in the past and see this as a great opportunity to reinvigorate our partnership and start to explore other opportunities."

Our Aggies staff and students have pledged to give our new feathered friends a fine new life on our farm.

"As long as I'm here at least, I think these chickens will have some good quality care," said student Lyle Fulmer, one of four students who welcomed the chicks to the campus along with Blake Arias, J.C. Chandler and Emily White.

"I just want to thank South Carolina ETV for partnering with the South Carolina Governor's



ETV's curriculum manager Samantha Reynolds and Chief Learning Officer Dr. Salandra Bowman visited with farm manager Mr. Eric McCall and our president Dr. Tim Keown when they delivered the chicks.



School for Agriculture," Emily said. "It just means a lot that we have people out there who like to care for us, and I think it's going to be really cool to show what these little chicks are going to do here at de la Howe. I think they're going to provide great eggs in the cafeteria and fit in great with the other flocks of chickens."

In fact, just two weeks into their time as Aggies, our new farm denizens are growing fast and showing all signs that they are settling nicely into to their new home. Ms. Reynolds joked that after having the earliest moments

of their lives broadcast to their world from ETV, these chicks expect a certain standard of living.

"These are celebrity chickens," she said with a smile. "They get held very regularly. They have nice bracelets on. They have names. They're color-coded. They've met community members. So, they're very used to the finer things in life, and it's going to be very hard to live up to that."

If the size of these young birds after just a couple weeks at John de la Howe is any indication, these fowl are living like finely-festooned kings and queens here.

The Best Of The Bunch

Third Quarter Honor Rolls And Top GPA Residence Hall Announced



Congratulations to those students who attained the **All-A Honor Roll** for the third quarter: Blake Arias, Ben Bronson, Dylan Buck, J.C. Chandler, Lilly Fox, Lyle Fulmer, Gray Gardner, Allie Gentle, William Caleb Gordon, Alexis Hanna, Ja'Davion Hicks, Lynzie Hodge, Claire Littleton, Kinley Metts, J.D. Miller, Mayson Miller, Jacqueline Oliver, Katharine Ostergaard, Riley Owens, Trip Steigerwald, Ella Taylor, Sierra Tinsley, Grace Viseth, Leona Weber, Emily White, Luke Williams.



Congratulations to those students who achieved the **A-B Honor Roll** for third quarter: Sam Bennett, Sawyer Buzhardt, Sara Corn, Danica Crosby, Jahira Freeman, Annabelle Horton, Michael Johnson, Eli Moore, Lillian Isabelle Moss, Tamiah Nunnally, Kaylee O'Neal, Preston Patterson, Brooklyn Glassburn, Ethan Aaron LeGeyt, Ian McCoy, Luke McNeil, Aaliyah Montgomery, Allie Taylor, Isabella Tench, Victor Venturini.



Students in the Savannah residence hall once again earned top honors for the highest collective GPA during third quarter and retained the championship belt.



Matt Maccalous was named Student of the Month for February, while Ella Taylor was named Student of the Month for March during a recent lunchtime student recognition event.

Mr. James Burt of McCormick's American Legion Post #19 visited recently and presented the tuition sponsorship for Victor Venturini and Corey Davis to attend Palmetto Boys State and Lynzie Hodge to attend Palmetto Girls State this summer at Anderson University. Also on-hand for the presentation was Eli Moore, who attended last summer and will be an advisor at this summer's Boys State.



Prom Night 2024

It was another outstanding night of celebration for our Aggies at the Red Barn inside Hickory Knob State Park...



J.D. Miller and Sierra Tinsley were chosen by their fellow students and crowned 2024 Prom King and Queen by Mr. Thompson and Dr. Keown.



'Rustic Romance'



Visit our Facebook page for many more photos from Prom Night 2024!





Seven of our Aggies collected awards at our chapter's very first South Carolina FBLA Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach. It was a wildly successful debut!

Aggies Take Care of Business At The Beach

New FBLA Chapter Rakes In The Hardware At State FBLA Conference

STAFF REPORT

Members of the Governor School for Agriculture's new Future Business Leaders of America chapter attended their first FBLA State Leadership Conference recently, and our Aggies took care of business in both skills and spirit.

Our delegation included 17 students who traveled to Hilton's Myrtle Beach Resort. Of those Aggies, seven qualified to compete June 29-July 2 at the national level during the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Orlando.

"Our new chapter of Future Business Leaders of America provides another opportunity for our students to be successful at both the state and national stage," said Jennifer Brown, the primary advisor for the Governor's School chapter. "Agricultural business themes are our focus, and many



Chapter president Aaliyah Montgomery holds the inaugural FBLA Spirit Award, which was claimed by our Aggies at their first-ever conference.

competitions like parliamentary procedure are perfect crossover events with FFA."

As a team, the Aggies captured the State Leadership Conference's

first-ever Chapter Spirit Award. Attending sessions wearing cowboy hats accented with brightly colored lights certainly helped that effort.

Three JDLH students took top honors in their respective competitions. Annabelle Horton from Mount Pleasant won first place in the Agribusiness contest; Brooklyn Glassburn of Plum Branch won the Journalism division; and Blake Arias of Santee finished first in the International Business competition.

"FBLA State Leadership Conference was not only a fun trip but also an excellent opportunity to further my education in the professional world," said Arias.

Second place honors went to Jahira Freeman from McCormick in the Help Desk competition and Amiya Bethea of Florence in Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure. Dell Brockman of



Cowboy hats, colored lights and that Aggie spirit of excellence and teamwork helped our students stand out at their very-first FBLA Leadership Conference.

Greer finished third in Impromptu Speaking, while Matt Maccalous of Honea Path took third in Introduction to Business Concepts.

Preparing the students for FBLA competition was a team effort among the John de la Howe staff and supporters. Ms. Brown

was joined by assistant FBLA advisor Dr. Jackie Hayes, fellow teachers Dr. Stacie Platt and Erin Newark, and even the school's president Dr. Timothy Keown in coaching the Aggies. Dr. Daniel Ostergaard, an Aggie parent and clinical professor at the University

of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business, also advised the team.

The Governor's School for Agriculture's FBLA chapter now has begun the process of trying to quickly pull together funding for its trip to the National Conference.



AGGIES IN ACTION



The Governor's School for Agriculture Livestock Evaluation Team claimed first place in the recent FFA State Competition held at the T. Ed Garrison Arena at Clemson University. Team members are J.D. Miller, Sierra Tinsley, Lilly Fox and Gray Gardner. Congratulations, Aggies!

Reaping Top Honors Wherever They Go



Ty Morton captured first place in the State FFA Dairy Handling Competition. He earned a spot to compete at the National FFA Convention this fall.



J.D. Miller took high overall individual score at the recent South Carolina Peach Council Clay Shoot at the Palmetto Shooting Complex in Edgefield.



Kaylee O'Neal and her horse Mister Whiz It earned the right to compete in the American Quarter Horse World Championship Show in Oklahoma.

AGGIES IN ACTION



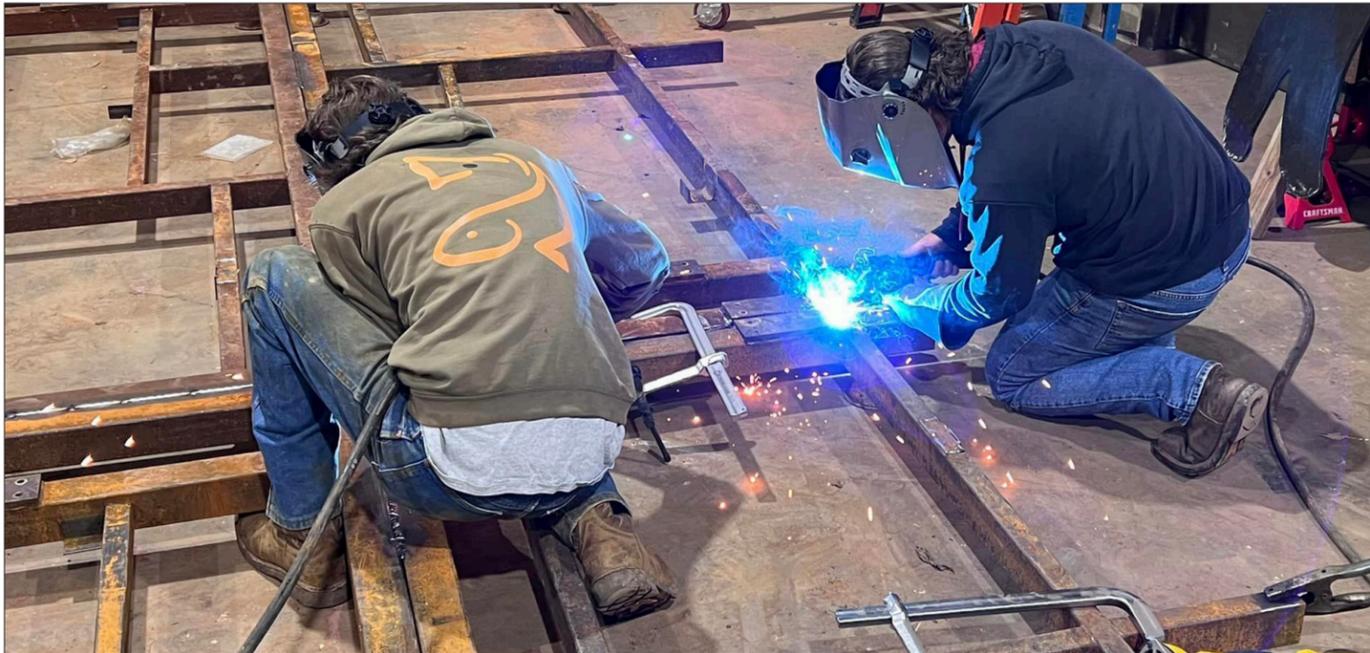
Our Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) team finished in second place as Reserve Champions in the State 4-H Competition at Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia. Team members are Blake Arias, Annabelle Horton, Macy Hudson and Luke Williams. Congratulations, Aggies!

Representing The Whole Aggie Nation



The Governor's School for Agriculture's Dairy Handling Team finished third high overall in 4-H Reasons at the Clemson University Spring Cattle Show. Team members were Danica Crosby, Sara Corn, Ty Morton, and Lily Moss. Lily Moss placed 4-H 2nd high individual in reasons and 3rd high individual overall. Congratulations, Aggies!

AGGIES IN ACTION



Students in Mr. Abrams' agricultural structures class practiced their welding skills by assembling a walking bridge out of old tractor pallets. Such projects teach students the practical application of their skills and demonstrate how they can be used across the full spectrum of the agriculture industry.

Engaging In Hands-On Learning



Students in Mr. Abrams' class recently accepted a donation of two Caterpillar 4.4 Engines to our Ag Mech program from Nashville Auto Diesel College/Lincoln Tech to be used for engine maintenance classes. Students also participated in the unloading and unpacking of these engines when they were delivered.

AGGIES IN ACTION



A delegation of Aggies attended a recent Wildlife Ecology / Outdoor Recreation Camp that included visits to the Congaree National Park, the Nemours Wildlife Foundation in Yemassee, Boone Hall Plantation near Charleston, and the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center in Georgetown.

Enjoying Eyes-On Life Experiences



A group of Aggies gathered at the Governor's Green on Monday afternoon, April 8 to don their protective glasses and witness the partial solar eclipse -- the last such eclipse visible in South Carolina until March 2052.

AGGIES IN ACTION



J.C. Chandler claimed one of the scholarships presented at the recent Anderson County Cattlemen's Association held at the Anderson County Extension Office. The event included an opportunity to enjoy a barbecued brisket dinner and meet a number of area cattlemen.

Connecting With Agriculture Leaders



Four of our Aggies -- J.C. Chandler, Jahira Freeman, Gray Gardner and Lyle Fulmer -- were joined by staff members Mrs. Stacie Smith, Mr. Eric McCall and Mrs. Kinsley Miller at the annual South Carolina Ag Tech & Business Forum, hosted by the Palmetto Agribusiness Council at the Phillips Market Center in Columbia.

AGGIES IN ACTION



Students in our library and across the campus had the opportunity to meet Jim Lovinggood, CEO of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, and Jeff Wilson, CEO of West Carolina Tel, who were given a VIP tour of our campus by farm manager Eric McCall. They were joined by alumnus Caitlyn Krout, who was on her college spring break.

Collecting Insight From Our Partners



Our principal Mr. Greg Thompson led a delegation of Aggies to his alma mater South Carolina State University for a tree-planting demonstration on the university's new PSA Research and Demonstration Farm in Olar. In fact, a couple of Governor's School alumni now work on the S.C. State farm.