

November 17, 2015

South Carolina Band Directors Association State 2A Marching Band Champions

The **Pelion High Panther Marching Pride** won the 2015 South Carolina Band Directors Association State 2A Marching Band Championship.

The Panther Marching Pride received a superior rating for the win, which marked the band's first 2A State Championship. The 104-member band also took first place in the music, visual and effect categories. Fourteen schools participated in the competition.

Representing the band tonight are captains **Denver Brown, Heather Calvert, Julia Dales, Mya Filardi, Chris Griggs, Kiya Johnson, Kaitlyn Lane, John Middleton, Abby Porth, Sky Powell, Liz Richburg, Daphne Thompson** and **Zach Thornton**.

The Marching Pride is led by PHS Director of Bands **Otto Hage** and PMS Director of Bands **Philip Loftis**.

South Carolina Scholastic Press Association Palmetto Award recipient

The **Pleasant Hill Middle yearbook staff** received the Palmetto Award for the 2015 edition of "Cougar Pride." The South Carolina Scholastic Press Association gives the award to the best yearbook in each enrollment division.

Representatives of the 2015 "Cougar Pride" staff include **Lawson Estridge, Morgan Gietz, William Hobbs, Ethan Hutcherson, William Lamb, Taylor McElwain, Jared O'Berry, Ariana Quetglas, Mary Claire Robinson, Nathan Seigler, Grace Ann Simpson** and **Katie Slick**.

The yearbook staff also earned the top overall rating of All-State for the division. PHMS competes against South Carolina middle and high schools with less than 900 students.

PHMS Creative Writing Teacher **René Horton** is the yearbook adviser.

South Carolina State Fair Student Art Competition first-place winners

Lexington One had a strong showing in the South Carolina State Fair Student Art Competition. Four students won Best in Show and six students won first-place awards.

Lexington Middle's **Audrey Boyette** won Best in Show for Middle School three-dimensional artwork. **Donna Taylor** is the LMS art teacher.

Pleasant Hill Elementary's **McKenna Myers** won Best in Show for Elementary Photography and Pleasant Hill Middle Student **Ben Beauchamp** won Best in Show for Elementary School two-dimensional artwork for work he created while at PHES. **Anna Degtyareau** is the PHES art teacher.

River Bluff High's **Emily Anderson** won Best in Show for High School Photography. **Carlee Myers** is the RBHS art teacher.

First-place winners from Pleasant Hill Elementary include: **Angelina Cartagena** in the second-grade three-dimensional art category; **Hutch Froese** in the second-grade two-dimensional art category; **Ashley Mayer** in the fourth-grade photography category; **Grace McMillan** in the kindergarten two-dimensional art category; and **Landyn Vining** in the fourth-grade two dimensional art category.

Pleasant Hill Middle Student **Brooklyn Webb** won first place in the two-dimensional art category. **Joanna Alford** is the PHMS art teacher.

South Carolina State Fair Student Home and Craft Competition first-place winners

Lexington One students also did very well in the South Carolina State Fair Student Home and Craft Competition. Seven students won first-place awards.

Winners and the winning categories include: **Margaret Bruening** from Lake Murray Elementary, foods and handicrafts divisions; **Laken Busher** from Lake Murray Elementary, foods division; **Maria Giugliano** from Meadow Glen Middle, handicrafts division; **Larissa Green** from Forts Pond Elementary, foods and handicrafts divisions; **Ashton Porter** from Gilbert High, foods and handicrafts divisions; **Kloey Porter** from Gilbert Elementary, foods and handicrafts divisions; and **Ana Sears** from Gilbert Middle, fabric and threads division.

South Carolina Association for the Advancement of Health Education Outstanding Contribution to Health Education Award recipient

White Knoll High Health and Wellness Teacher **Erica Gambrell** was selected as a recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Contribution to Health Education Award.

The South Carolina Association for the Advancement of Health Education selected Gambrell for her commitment to health and education, and her work with Erin's Law Think Tank.

Erin's Law requires schools across the state to teach children about abuse and report it. The goal of Erin's law is to make schools a safe haven for reporting abuse.

Best of South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers' Association Award

Members of the South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers' Association selected Deerfield Elementary Foreign Language Teacher **Jennifer Godwin's** presentation for a "Best of SCFLTA" award.

Jennifer presented "Using Digital Media with Early Language Learners" at the state conference in February.

She will present it again at the regional conference next year.

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative Bright Ideas Grant recipients

Eight Lexington One teachers received Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative Bright Ideas grants that help teachers energize instruction by providing funds for innovative classroom activities.

This year's recipients include: **Brooke Scott** from Deerfield Elementary; **Suzanne Brooks** from Lexington Elementary; **Jamie Costner**, **Ashley Holmes** and **Margaret Tesh** from Meadow Glen Middle; **Katie McKinley** from Midway Elementary; **Kerri McLaughlin** from Pelion High; **Taylor Colbert** and **John Leneschmidt** from Pelion Middle; **Kim Blankenbeckler** from Pleasant Hill Middle; and **Amber Laurita** from Red Bank Elementary.

South Carolina State Fair Adult Home and Craft Competition first-place winner

A Lexington One teacher also won top honors in the South Carolina State Fair Adult Home and Craft Competition.

Shelley Jackson, a Pleasant Hill Middle Interventionist, won two first-place awards in the counted cross-stitch division.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) recognized

The Lexington County School District One's **Office of Fiscal Services** is the recipient of two awards given for excellence in financial reporting.

Director of Accounting **Deena Bishop**, Chief Financial Officer **John Butler**, Director of Business Services **David Cobb** and Director of Fiscal Services **Debra Seymour** represent Fiscal Services tonight.

The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting award is for the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending in 2014.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada awarded the district's Office of Fiscal Services the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year 2014 CAFR.

Publix Super Markets Charities Early Learning Program Grant recipient

Gilbert Primary received a Publix Super Markets Charities Early Learning Program Grant. This grant will assist in purchasing books for the Early Learning program.

The \$250 grant will help increase exposure to books, build vocabulary and significantly enhance students' readiness for entering kindergarten. GPS hopes to help children develop positive associations with books and reading, and build a stronger foundation for success.

Representing Gilbert Primary tonight is Principal **Mylisa Apperson**, Early Learning Center 3K Teacher **Sharon McCain** and Parent Liaison **Missy Freeman**.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Champion of the Environment Grant recipient

Deerfield Elementary has been selected as a South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Champion of the Environment for its Recycling Initiative project.

Some of the project goals include educating students and the community about the impact that recycling can make and creating long-term environmental benefits through lasting partnerships.

DES will receive a \$2,000 grant to accomplish those goals. DHEC will also visit DES and produce a TV commercial about the school's project.

Representing DES tonight is Principal **Jan Malone** and Learning Coach **Brooke Scott**.

2015 LEAP winners

Each year Lexington One employees generously support the Lexington Employee Assistance Plan and the Lexington Education Assistance Plan, known collectively as LEAP.

Sponsored by the Lexington One Educational Foundation, the program provides assistance to employees and students in need. It also provides financial support to LexLeads, LexLearns and LexLives programs.

As part of the LEAP campaign, the foundation presents incentive awards based on participation. Tonight the foundation recognizes: **Gilbert Primary** (Principal **Mylisa Apperson** and LEAP Representatives **Donnelle Glatz** and **Tracy Spires**); **Lake Murray Elementary** (Principal **Devona Price** and LEAP Representatives **Alice Anne Merritt** and **Christy Sturkie**); **Lexington One Maintenance Department** (Director **John Stehmeyer** and LEAP Representative **Donna Gaines**); **River Bluff High** (Principal **Luke Clamp**, Ed.D. and LEAP Representatives **Stacy Clarke** and **Melanie Jackson**) and **White Knoll Elementary** (Principal **Bob Grant** and LEAP Representatives **Allison Blizzard** and **Amanda Elliott**).