

PROOF POSITIVE

Honoring Lexington County School District One students and staff receiving state, national and international awards



October 20, 2015

2015 National Black Data Processing Associates High School Computer Competition third-place winner

River Bluff High Junior **Braxton Garner-Robinson** helped his Greater Columbia BDPA High School Computer Competition team finish third in the 2015 National BDPA High School Computer Competition.

Seventeen teams took part in the event held during the 37th Annual National BDPA Conference in Washington, D.C. in August. The competition included oral, written and programming sections.

Garner-Robinson and his teammates each received a \$1,000 scholarship for their third-place win.

The event, which is designed to encourage students to seek higher levels of education and introduce them to the field of information technology, is part of the BDPA science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) program.

Boy Scouts of America Medal of Merit recipient

Gilbert High Junior **Scott Wills** has received the Boy Scouts of America Medal of Merit.

According to the organization, the medal is awarded when a scout performs an act of meritorious service above and beyond what is normally expected of a youth or adult member of the Boy Scouts of America. The act must demonstrate exceptional character that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others.

Last year Wills helped rescue some Tiger Cubs and their scout leader after the dock they were fishing from flipped over, trapping the group in the water.

Only 6,478 Boy Scouts have received the Medal of Merit since 1945.

Columbia Museum of Art's "Palmetto Heritage: The History of South Carolina" winners

The Columbia Museum of Art displayed the photography of some Lexington One students last month during the museum's "Palmetto Heritage: The History of South Carolina" exhibition.

Photographs by Pleasant Hill Elementary Students **McKenna Myers, Sam Woodyard** and **Scott Woodyard**, Pleasant Hill Middle Student **Brayden Myers**, and River Bluff High Student **Kelsey Payne**, along with those by other student winners were on display at the museum for the month of September.

The exhibit, which captured the history of South Carolina by photographing many of the state's beautiful places listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is now on display in Senator Lindsey Graham's Washington, D.C. office.

National Merit Scholarship Program commended students and semifinalists

About 1.5 million juniors entered the National Merit Scholarship Competition contest by taking the Preliminary SAT or National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The program honors talented high school seniors who show exceptional academic ability.

Lexington One's 2016 National Merit Commended Students include Lexington High's **Christopher Coskrey, Jolie Frazer-Madge** and **Todd Long**, and River Bluff High's **Judson Cooper, Kyle Foster** and **Casey Smith**. Commended students demonstrate exceptional academic promise. Some of these commended students become candidates for special National Merit scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Four Lexington One students are among the 2016 South Carolina seniors named as National Merit Semifinalists. The district's semifinalists include Lexington High's **Rosemary Coskrey, Ashley Fellers** and **Zane Simpson**, and River Bluff High's **Elizabeth Farrar**.

High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT, an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

The nationwide pool of semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

If they advance to the finalist level, these students will compete for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

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2015 Newberry College Athletics Hall of Fame inductee

In September, Lexington High Assistant Football Coach **Will Newell** became a member of the Newberry College Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2015.

He is one of six former Newberry College athletes inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.

Newell ranks sixth in school records with 338 career tackles, including 192 solo stops and 146 assisted tackles. In 2008, he became the college's third American Football Coaches Association All-American and was named the South Atlantic Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

DonorsChoose.org Project Funding recipients

Two Lexington One teachers are incorporating new projects into their classrooms this year thanks to funding received through DonorsChoose.org.

Saxe Gotha Elementary Second-Grade Teacher **Haylee Boltjes** used DonorsChoose.org to fund the "We Nook for Books!" project. She received a Nook and case for her classroom.

Midway Elementary First-Grade Teacher **Jennifer Talty** used the website to secure funding for her project titled "Seat Sacks." Talty uses the sacks at students' desks to help them organize their school supplies for easy access.

South Carolina Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences president

Members of SCATFACS nominated and elected Lexington High Family and Consumer Science Teacher **Jennifer O'Connell** as president for the 2015–2016 school year.

Elections were held in June during the 2015 South Carolina Education and Business Summit in Greenville.

O'Connell will assist family and consumer sciences educators across South Carolina.

South Carolina Association of Teachers and Family and Consumer Sciences president-elect

Lexington High Family and Consumer Science Teacher **Melissa Dowdy** is the president-elect for SCATFACS Teachers.

Dowdy was elected and nominated to serve as president-elect during the 2015 South Carolina Education and Business Summit in Greenville in June.

Dowdy will assist the organization's president as she works with family and consumer sciences educators across the state.

South Carolina Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant recipient

Pelion Middle received a four-year grant from the South Carolina Department of Education to begin operating a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

The grant provides opportunities for academic enrichment and offers students and their families a broad array of additional services, programs and activities.

The first year of the grant, Pelion Middle will receive \$120,000. They will continue to receive funds for the next three years totalling \$406,500.

Representing Pelion Middle tonight is Lexington One's Grants Coordinator **Trish James**, Pelion Middle Principal **Jeff Matthews**, Pelion Elementary After-School Coordinator **Amy Bosch** and Pelion Middle Literacy Coach **Allyson Stoy**.

"Dream Big—Making Dreams Reality in Lexington One" participants

Lexington One produces a video series called "Dream Big—Making Dreams Reality in Lexington One." The series showcases Lexington One and highlights the importance of public school education.

The sixth video in the series features White Knoll Elementary Fifth-Grader **Weston Grant** and Somerset Patriots Manager **Brett Jodie**.

In the video, Weston talks about his dream to become a professional baseball player. Jodie explains how graduating from Lexington One helped him realize the importance of having a sound education and pursuing your dreams.

Relay For Life

Each year Lexington One employees and students participate in Relay For Life Lexington, raising money for the American Cancer Society.

Tonight's presentation recognizes the 10 Lexington One schools that raised the most money for 2015 Relay For Life Lexington.

The district's top 10 fundraising teams listed in alphabetical order are: **Gilbert Elementary** represented by Principal **Tim Oswald** and Team Captain **Donna Clarke**; **Gilbert High** represented by Principal **Ann O'Cain** and Team Captain **Josie Price**; **Lexington Elementary** represented by Principal **Jim Hamby** and Team Captains **Jamie Hudson** and **Ashlee Young**; **Lexington High** represented by Principal **Melissa Rawl** and Team Captain **Trudy Scurry**; **Lexington Middle** represented by Principal **Ryan Pool** and Team Captain **Charlene Jones**; **Meadow Glen Middle** represented by Principal **Bill Coon** and Team Captain **Amy Long**; **New Providence Elementary** represented by Principal **Debbie Poole** and Team Captains **Windy Cordovano** and **Kerri Dowdy**; **Pleasant Hill Middle** represented by Principal **Thomas Rivers** and Team Captain **Mary Carpenter**; **Red Bank Elementary** represented by Principal **Marie Watson** and Team Captains **Jamee Childs** and **Frances Cox**; and **River Bluff High** represented by Principal **Luke Clamp** and Team Captains **Georgia Loadholt** and **Tommy Mishoe**.