

# THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

www.thelinkpaper.com

March 29, 2011

50 cents

## County shows slight growth

ROBERT MONNIE  
Staff Reporter

Chesterfield County showed a slight population increase to 46,734, according to the 2010 official census figures released last Wednesday.

This represents an increase of 3,966, or 9.3 percent, from the 2000 census count of 42,768. All figures are as of April 1, 2010.

See CENSUS, 15A

## Earthquake shakes county seat

LEIGHTON BELL  
Editor - The Link

What several people described as the sound of military planes rumbling under the ground March 21 turned out to be an earthquake that registered a 2.9 on the Richter scale.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the epicenter of the earthquake was between the towns of Chesterfield and Wadesboro, N.C. The shake occurred around 6 p.m.

No damage or injuries were reported after the earthquake, although area residents who felt the ground shake called emergency services to ask what was going on.

## Pegues named Farmer of the Year

LEIGHTON BELL  
Editor - The Link

A desire to make his mother's dream a reality led to Paxton Pegues' being named 2010 Farmer of the Year by the Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District.

In 1989, Martha Pegues purchased land that would eventually encompass over 300 acres and become the Carolina Nature Conservancy. Martha's dream was to return the land to a condition that closely resembles the property prior to European settlement.

"The Pegues family was one of the original large land owners when European settlers first came to the American colonies," said District Conservationist Charles Babb. "They owned land in Chesterfield and Marl-

boro counties, and when Martha reacquired the land, her goal was to return it to that original state without the use of herbicides and pesticides."

Babb admitted the holistic approach was initially hard for him to grasp, as he was used to relying on chemicals to maintain land. The Pegues, however, use intense grazing techniques of cows, sheep and goats.

The Pegues allot their herd's grazing by calculating a daily forage requirement. This is basically how much their herd needs to eat in one 24-hour day versus how fast the grass is growing. In times of lush growth, the herds will be confined to a smaller area, whereas when it's dry, the animals need more space to graze the same amount of grass.



Susan Griggs/Staff Photographer

Pictured from left are Olivia Pegues, Rachel Pegues, SWCD Chairman Dwight Johnson, 2010 Farmer of the Year Paxton Pegues, Kayler Pegues and Lanier Pegues. Not pictured is Spencer Pegues.

See FARMER, 15A

## Highland celebrates 50 years

LEIGHTON BELL  
Editor - The Link

Highland Industries continued its 50-year tradition of giving back to Cheraw Saturday as high-ranking company officials treated past and present employees, along with their friends and family, to a company picnic complete with children's rides and activities. In addition, the business presented the town of Cheraw a \$50,000 check to be used toward construction of a gym or wellness center.

"This is a celebration 50 years in the making," Plant Manager Evans Tindal said.

Due to a recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Takata President Shigehisa Takada was unable to attend Saturday's event, but many senior executives from the company were on hand, along with almost all locally elected officials, including Congressman Mick Mulvaney and S.C. Sens. Vincent Sheheen and Gerald Malloy.

Highland Industries Chief Executive Officer Frank Roe provided remarks at the ceremony, saying that Highland's products touch every part of life in America.

"We save lives," Roe said, pointing



Leighton Bell/Editor

Highland Industries Executive Vice President Frank Roe stands in back as Cheraw Mayor Scott Hunter prepares to present him with a proclamation and key to the city. Roe followed Hunter's presentation by giving the town \$50,000.

out the Cheraw plant is the largest airbag weaving facility in the world.

"The products we make here are in Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan with the

See HIGHLAND, 16A

## Cheraw to be featured on TV show

Region Reports

A special preview viewing of the regional television show "Life in the Carolinas" featuring the people and places of Cheraw will be aired as a part of the 2011 Cheraw Spring festival.

The event will kick-off the 36th annual festival Thursday, March 31, at the Theatre on the Green beginning at 6 p.m.

In addition to the episode preview, Cheraw Mayor Scott Hunter and show host/producer Carl White will provide comments about the production. The preview show will also air interview bloopers by local participants involved in the production. Special musical entertainment and light refreshments will highlight the evening. The event is free and seating is available on a first come basis.

"Life in the Carolinas" is a 30-minute syndicated weekly magazine-style production that highlights people, places and events in the two Carolinas. The show reaches approximately 5 million homes and is broadcast locally on Time Warner channel 5, Direct TV Channel 55, Dish Network Channel 55 and WMTV station MY12 in Charlotte.

White recently selected four communities in North and South Carolina to showcase their Carolina Lifestyles. Cheraw was one of the communities selected.

White and the crew of "Life in the Carolinas" worked for more than a year

See TV PREMIERE, 15A



White

## Columbia hospital gives to Mercy In Me free medical clinic

LEIGHTON BELL  
Editor - The Link

Former Providence Hospital Chief of Staff Mac Leppard returned home to Chesterfield County last week to present a donation to the Mercy In Me free medical clinic on behalf of Providence Hospital's Sisters of Charity Foundation.

"Mercy In Me fits into the mission of Providence Hospital, which is taking care of people," Leppard said.

A native of Chesterfield, Leppard learned of Mercy In Me about a year ago and quickly went to work trying to secure funding for the organization.

"I grew up in Chesterfield so I have a passion to help folks here," Leppard said. "And if I can't help directly by treating patients, I can at least help indirectly by finding ways to help fund this clinic."

Leppard stressed that Providence Hospital and Mercy In Me are in no



Leighton Bell/Editor

Pictured above, center, Mercy In Me Medical Director Dr. Gabe Simpson accepts a check from Mac Leppard on behalf of Providence Hospital in Columbia. Also pictured from left are Mercy In Me board member Kappie Griggs, Dr. David Bersinger, OBGYN, and Mercy In Me board members Lisa Simpson, Phillip Caulder, Mel West and John Goodwin.

way trying to compete with Chesterfield General Hospital.

"We're all in the same business of trying to help people," Leppard said.

"And Mercy In Me has the ability to

reach those people in the gap that Providence and Chesterfield General really can't help."

Mercy In Me Medical Director Dr. Gabe Simpson said Providence's do-

nation was greatly appreciated and very much needed as the free clinic is already seeing an increase in patients during the first few months of 2011.

"Times are tough right now, and people are struggling," Simpson said. "We're trying to help as many people as we can, but we're still in need of constant prayers and support."

The clinic, which is located on Foundry Hill Road in Cheraw, is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. until noon for screenings. Local physicians volunteer to meet with patients Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only.

Mercy In Me will host its second annual fundraising banquet at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at First Baptist Church Life Center in Cheraw.

For more information, or to become a sponsor, call Linda Roberts at (843) 910-1148, or Mel West at (843) 287-0176.

**Fill in the blank.**

Subscribe by calling (843) 537-7887, and your name and address will fill this spot on a mailing label.



## Pageland Chamber hosting Business After Hours

Region Reports

The Pageland Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business After Hours today at the South Pointe Student Center located at 102 East McGregor St. in Pageland beginning at 5:30 p.m.

There will be a social gathering for businesses to meet and greet upon arrival. Following that will be a presentation from Clint Patterson on how to start a Web page for your business and on how to start your own business Facebook page.

"We want to provide our members with some quick seminars that can really make an impact on their business. We won't keep you long; these are short presentations where you can come away with lots of information to help you get started," said

Sondra Price of the Pageland Chamber of Commerce. "In today's technological world, these ideas can boost sales in any business. We would like to see a good number come and meet with us to pick up some great ideas on social networking."

Volume 5, Issue 7

INDEX

A Section 16 pages  
Bookings.....2A  
Local Link.....4A  
Obituaries.....6A  
Calendar.....14A  
B Section 12 pages  
Sports.....1B  
Classifieds.....9B