



Leighton Bell/Editor

William Griggs, second from left, was recognized for 25 years of service at the Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District banquet last week. Also pictured from left are Commissioner Dwight Johnson; William's wife, Susan; and Marc Cribb of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources.

Griggs honored for 25 years of service

LEIGHTON BELL
Editor - The Link

Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner William Griggs was recognized for 25 years of service at the CSWCD banquet last week.

Griggs went to work for the Natural Resources Conserva-

tion Service in 1974 after graduating from high school. Following the death of his brother two years later, he became a full-time farmer.

"Anyone who knows William from back then will testify about one of several character traits," Griggs'

See GRIGGS, 16A

FARMER

Continued from Front

Everyday, and sometimes twice daily, the herd is moved to a new grazing area. The sheep and goats are co-grazed with the cattle, as they will typically eat different plants. This way, a wide range of plants is utilized so that none become a dominant species. If a pasture has only one type of forage present, the wrong weather can wipe out an entire season of grazing.

In addition to the organic livestock, the Pegues also have value-added products such as chickens, eggs and, in the testing phase, shiitake mushrooms.

In 2009, the USDA-NRCS partnered with Paxton to learn more about his operation and offer technical and program assistance such as developing a livestock watering design for water tanks, as well as designing fences and implementing organic nutrient and pest-management practices.

Maintaining good water quality has been a priority for Paxton and is demonstrated by the clear water flowing through Westfield Creek, which splits the property. Also of note are the natural wetland buffers on the property. Even though livestock has access to these areas, the time spent in these sensitive areas is kept to a minimum and is evidenced by the clear water, healthy plants and absence of erosion.

As in past years, in October 2010, two of Paxton's children, Rachel and Spencer, took six cows, two bulls and one calf to the S.C. State Fair. Between Rachel and Spencer, they entered 14 classes and brought home 14 ribbons, including Spencer's cow, 99, which won the championship in her division and competed in the championship class.

Paxton also has one other son, Lanier.

TV PREMIERE

Continued from Front

to produce the special Cheraw episode. According to White, "Creating the Cheraw episode was a pure labor of love. I found the townspeople warm and inviting. The quality of life and strong sense of community make Cheraw a thoroughly livable town and a very special place to visit. When I leave Cheraw, I find it never really leaves me."

The Cheraw episode will air on WMTV Charlotte at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 2, as well as on local Time Warner channel 5.

The town of Cheraw financially assisted with the pro-

duction cost and will in turn utilize the episode in conjunction with its ongoing marketing activities. The show's DVD will be utilized by the town's website, www.cheraw.com, for web-based marketing, as well as business and retirement relocation promotion. The 22-minute DVD could potentially be aired continuously on a future local access cable channel.

Visit www.lifeinthecarolinas.com for further background information on "Life in the Carolinas" past episodes and broadcast information.



In Loving Memory of

Joshua Allen Ratliff

Thursday, Dec. 22, 1988 to Friday, April 2, 2010

Gone but never forgotten!

You will live in our hearts forever!

Love, Mama, Bubba, Daddy, Deana and all of your family and friends

Cheraw zoning commission reviews multiple requests

LEIGHTON BELL
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The town of Cheraw's zoning commission reviewed two requests March 21, approving a change that could allow for a small industry to locate downtown, while denying a request by Pee Dee Ice and Fuel to construct a new storage building.

The Rev. Jerry Corbett and members of Pee Dee Union Baptist Church attended the meeting to oppose Pee Dee Ice and Fuel's request, saying business owners have done a poor job of maintaining their property in the past. Corbett described the existing facility as an eyesore and said it would be inappropriate to rezone the property where the business could add on.

Cheraw's zoning commission sided in favor of Pee Dee Union's congregation and denied the request. The commission's rec-

ommendation will now be presented to Cheraw Town Council for a final decision.

"I can't speak for council, but 99.9 percent of the time, we go along with the recommendation of our zoning commission," Cheraw Mayor Scott Hunter said. "Our zoning commission consists of local professionals, and we value their opinions."

At a meeting April 12, Cheraw Town Council will also consider the zoning commission's recommendation to rezone property at 140 Second St. from commercial to light industrial. The property owner requested the land be rezoned in order to attract a beverage manufacturing facility.

"Right now, we're not sure the industry is coming," Hunter said. "The property owners just wanted to make sure everything was handled properly, and before moving forward, the property had to be rezoned."

FOARD

Continued from 13A

During those periods Foard's office will either be closed or there will be a receptionist covering the phones.

While Foard has not officially opened his office at this point, he is taking appointments and accepting clients.

"My plans are to officially open the office Monday, April 11," Foard said.

Between now and then he will see clients by appointment only.

Foard's plans are to operate the office himself for a period and then gradually incorporate employees as his business grows.

Foard is a son of Mike Foard and Linnett Burr. In addition to being an attorney, Foard is also a licensed real estate agent and has an affiliation with A & E Real Estate.

"My personal interests are in the areas of real estate law, estate planning and probate work," Foard said.

Expressing his concern at the number of people who have made no estate plan, Foard said, "The most important element about estate planning is actually having that plan. You really need to look at your assets and decide what you want to do with them and have a clear and defined strategy."

"The fact of the matter is that once you're gone, you're gone, and you've left all this behind for your loved ones to

take care of. Without a clear plan in place, oftentimes people are lost and don't know what to do," Foard said.

For clarification, Foard explains that if a person in South Carolina dies without a will, the law states their spouse and children split the belongings.

"Many people believe that automatically their spouse is going to get everything. Not in South Carolina if you die without a will," Foard said.

CENSUS

Continued from Front

With a substantial increase countywide in the return rate of the mail-in census questionnaires a year ago, county politicians were optimistic the high return rate would translate into an official population count of 50,000, an increase of 16 percent from the 2000 census. The 2010 county mail-in rate was 77 percent, an increase from 60 percent in 2000. Remaining questionnaires were completed by either home visits by census workers or on-site at local census stations.

The racial breakdown of the county remains relatively unchanged with 62.8 percent white, 32.6 percent black and 3.6 percent Hispanic. Marlboro County's 2010 population of 28,993 showed virtually no growth from the 2000 count of 28,818, while the 2010 population of Darlington County increased slightly to 68,681 from 67,394 in 2000.

South Carolina's population grew 15.3 percent, tenth fastest in the country, to 4,625,364 from 4,012,012 in 2000. Based on that population growth, South Carolina is among eight states that will gain one congressional

seat, effective 2013. Beginning with the 2012 election, the Palmetto State will be choosing seven House representatives, an increase from the current six.

One of the primary tasks of the state legislature this year will be to redraw the state's current six congressional districts to create a seventh seat that in all likelihood will be centered on the fast-growing coastal region. The state legislature must also restructure the districts for the 46 state senators and 124 state representatives. With a Republican controlled legislature and Republican governor, those districts will likely favor the GOP, which also holds five of the six congressional seats and both U.S. Senator positions. The General Assembly has already spent nearly \$500,000 on the redistricting process.

In accordance with the U.S. Constitution and federal statute, following each decennial census, the country must reapportion the House's 435 districts to make them roughly equal in population, with each state getting at least one seat. Na-

tionwide, each congressman will represent an average of 710,767 constituents, while in South Carolina, the average constituency per congressman will be 663,711, a slight decrease from the current 670,844.

Based on this local population data, Chesterfield County Council may also be required under state law to realign its current nine districts. Though it is encouraged, state law does not require school districts or municipalities to redraw their internal voting boundaries. Currently, the nine-member school board districts mirror the nine-member county council districts.

Cheraw remains the most populous town in the county with a 2010 count of 5,851, a 5.9 percent increase from the 2010 count of 5,524, followed by Pageland with a 2010 count of 2,760, a 9.5 percent increase from the 2000 count of 2,521.

The 2010 populations of the other six towns in the county are listed as follows with the 2000 population and percent change listed in parentheses: Chesterfield -

1472 (1318, + 11.7 percent); McBee - 867 (714, + 21.4 percent); Jefferson - 753 (704, +7.0 percent);

Patrick - 351 (354, -.09 percent); Ruby - 360 (348, +3.4 percent);

Mt. Croghan - 195 (155 +25.9 percent).

As expected, most of the county population growth (2,995 or 75 percent) occurred in the unincorporated areas, primarily in the western sector, rather than the county's eight towns, because current state law makes it fairly difficult for a municipality to annex populated areas.

Based on the census figures, nearly \$600 billion in tax revenue nationwide will be returned to the states and subsequently local governments annually for the next 10 years. The bulk of this revenue will be allocated for infrastructure construction in transportation and utilities in addition to funding for K-12 and post-secondary public education.

Additional information on local populations, including a variety of demographics, is available at www.census.gov.

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A Letter to my Daddy (Bernard Smith)

I will never say goodbye to my daddy, because I know that this is not the end for us to see each other. You are in heaven with God, and right now we have to go in separate directions. I remember your smile, your laugh, and how you held me when I cried, walked and talked. I am grateful and proud to call you my Daddy.

I remember the last time you put me to sleep, took my fishing, and played with me. If I could turn back the hands of time, I would have never let you go. Tears fall like the rain. You will not be forgotten and for the rest of our lives, we will cherish our memories of your love. A loving husband, daddy kisser, hunter, adventurous fisherman, policeman and soldier for the world.

We love you! Happy Birthday March 28. Deployed to Heaven June 20, 2009.

Pals to the End,
Tater Bug, Little Momma and Buddy

Fath, Joy, Bernard