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Circ. 5906
From Page:
B5
6/1/2016
64192



¹⁴⁸ New legislation moves forward at Statehouse

REP. JOSEPH H. JEFFERSON, JR.
SC House District #102

Farm relief veto reversed

The House of Representatives and the Senate voted to override the Governor's veto on H.4717 to allow the bill to become law. The legislation responds to the unprecedented damage of the October 2015 floods by creating the "South Carolina Farm Aid Fund" to assist farmers in order to prevent the economic collapse of many of the state's farms which could cause a severe disruption in the state's economy and food supply chain. Established with a \$40 million appropriation from the 2014-2015 Contingency Reserve Fund, the South Carolina Farm Aid Fund is created for making financial awards to farmers who have experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities of at least forty percent as a result of the catastrophic flooding of October 2015. Grant awards must be used for agricultural production expenses and losses due to the flood which demonstrate an intent to continue the agricultural operation, such as purchases of seed and fertilizer.



Eye care bill to become law

The Senate and the House voted to override the Governor's veto on S.1016, the "Eye Care Consumer Protection Law" to allow the bill to become law. The legislation provides that a person in this state may not dispense spectacles or contact lenses to a patient without a valid prescription from an individual licensed by the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry or the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners.

Protecting the unborn

The House adopted the free conference report on H.3114, the "South Carolina Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act," and, the Senate having already adopted the free conference report, the bill was enrolled for ratification. The legislation establishes a prohibition on the performance of abortions beginning at twenty weeks following fertilization. Exceptions are provided to permit these late term abortions in order to prevent the death or serious physical impairment of the mother as well as in instances where a fetal anomaly is present that is likely to prevent a child's life from being sustained after birth.

Ethics reform bill amended

The House amended Senate amendments to H.3184, a bill establishing enhancements to ethics laws by providing for more independent means of investigating alleged misconduct of public officials in the legislative and executive branches of government, and returned the bill to the Senate. The legislation discontinues current practices of the legislative and executive branches of state government each exclusively investigating the alleged ethics violations of their own members, and instead provides for allegations of public misconduct to be investigated by a reconstituted State Ethics Commission made up of members selected by both of these branches of government.

State budget adjusted

The House amended Senate amendments to H.5001, the General Appropriation Bill, and H.5002, the joint resolution making appropriations from the Capital Reserve Fund, which together comprise the proposed fiscal year 2016-2017 state government budget. The budget legislation was returned to the Senate with amendments that, for the most part, reinstate the version of the budget approved by the House earlier in the year with certain exceptions, such as an adjustment of Department

of Transportation funding that coordinates with S.1258, the road funding legislation that was recently reported out of the Ways and Means Committee, and revisions to the terms of loan forgiveness and debt service at South Carolina State University.

Educational goals

The House concurred in Senate amendments to H.4936, a bill designating educational goals for all South Carolina high school graduates and the standards and areas of learning by which these goals are measured. Through this legislation, the General Assembly declares that the principles outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, published by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators and approved by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness, the Education Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education and Transform SC schools and districts, are the standards by which our state's high school graduates should be measured and are this state's achievement goals for all high school students.

Founding principles

The House concurred in Senate amendments to H.3848, the "South Carolina Founding Principles Act," and enrolled the bill for ratification. The legislation requires the State Board of Education and Education Oversight Committee to incorporate instruction on the founding principles that shaped the United States into the required study of the United States Constitution and the South Carolina Social Studies Standards upon the next cyclical review.

Foster Children limit

The House concurred in Senate amendments to H.4510, a bill establishing limitations on the number of foster children who may be placed in a foster home, and enrolled the legislation for ratification. The legislation allows a foster home to provide full-time care for up to



Berkeley
Independent
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Corner, SC
Circ. 5906
From Page:
B5
6/1/2016
64192

eight children, with up to five of them being foster children. The exceptions to this maximum number include keeping a sibling group together, allowing children to remain in their home community, returning a child to a home that was a previous placement for them, complying with a court order, and any placement in the best interest of the child.

Electronic traffic tickets

The House concurred in Senate amendments to H.3685 and enrolled the bill for ratification. The legislation makes provisions for the electronic transmission of traffic tickets to bring South Carolina into compliance with federal electronic ticketing provisions.

Home loan banks

The House approved S.693 and enrolled the bill for ratification. The legislation revises the Insurers' Rehabilitation And Liquidation Act to make provisions that are specific to federal home loan banks and insurer members of those banks in delinquency proceedings.

Regulation on trailers

The House concurred in Senate amendments to H.4932, a bill making revisions to specifications and limitations for vehicles and trailers operated along the state's highways, and enrolled the legislation for ratification. The legislation revises provisions for maximum trailer lengths to provide for a greater maximum length that applies only to trailers or semitrailers

used exclusively or primarily to transport vehicles used in connection with motorsports competition events. The legislation makes revisions relating to axle and weight limits for motorhomes and intrastate public agency transit passenger buses. The legislation makes provisions for increased weights associated with idle reduction systems. New provisions are included to allow motor vehicles fueled primarily by natural gas to exceed weight limitations by specified amounts.

An exemption from restrictions is included to apply the large dirt-hauling trucks and other vehicles used in connection with the construction, repair, and maintenance of the shipping container terminals of the South Carolina State Ports Authority.

Savings promotions

The House returned S.652 to the Senate with amendments. The legislation provides authority for financial institutions that do business in South Carolina to conduct savings promotion contests for members and customers which encourage people to save money by adding a feature to personal savings accounts that include a chance to win prizes.

Juvenile sex offenders

The House approved and sent the Senate H.3133, a bill that establishes a protocol allowing someone who has been placed in the juvenile sex offender registry to petition the family court to remove the person's requirement to register as a sex offender

once the individual has reached twenty one years of age and has been released from the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, South Carolina Department of Corrections, or South Carolina Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services.

Special license plates

The House concurred in Senate amendments to H.3927, a bill relating to special license plates, and enrolled the legislation for ratification. The legislation provides authority for the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue special personalized organizational license plates and special organizational souvenir license plates. The legislation provides that there is no fee for the issuance of "Korean War Veterans" special license plates. Provisions are made for "Silver Star" and "Bronze Star" special license plates to be issued for motorcycles. The legislation provides authority for the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue "Chase Away Childhood Cancer Special License Plates" with proceeds to be distributed to Chase After a Cure.

If you have a comment or opinion concerning the matters discussed in this report, or if I may be of assistance to you at any time, please feel free to call your legislative office in Columbia (734 2936); or my office in Pineville (843-567-4386). Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the House of Representatives.

148

Audit recommends merging DOT, highway borrowing agency

The News
Kingstree, SC
Circ. 4587
From Page:
4
6/1/2016
64159



The South Carolina agency that borrows and doles out money for large highway projects should merge with the Department of Transportation, state auditors recommended Thursday. Combining the agencies would allow for better coordination and prioritization of highway projects and focus accountability in a single agency, the report by the Legislative Audit Council says. But the chairman of the state Transportation Infrastructure Bank said the two must remain separate, due to the DOT's limited ability to borrow money under state law and the state constitution. "The situation demands it," said Chairman Vincent Graham.

The Legislature created the bank in 1997 to fund projects that can't be built on a pay-as-you-go basis, such as the Ravenel Bridge that links Charleston to Mount Pleasant. Since then, it has awarded about \$3.8 billion in grants and \$1 billion in loans for transportation projects. As of June 2015, the bank still owed about \$2 billion to bondholders, according to the report. It notes that legislators would need to alter state law or the constitution to consolidate the agencies. But that wouldn't be easy. "Merging the two would have consequences on debt. It's hard to get the toothpaste back in the tube," said Mike Wooten. As chairman of the DOT commission, Wooten also has a seat on the borrowing agency's board.

The report comes as legislators attempt to finalize a bill changing governance in the two agencies and allowing for \$2 billion in borrowing over 10 years, funded by \$200 million annually in existing fees and vehicle taxes. Legislators say that will jumpstart meeting the state's needs without raising taxes. The DOT has said it needs an additional \$1.5 billion yearly over three decades to bring one of the nation's largest highway systems to good condition. Opponents of raising the state's gas tax — unchanged since 1987 at 16 cents per gallon — have blocked any increase, saying the DOT and infrastructure bank must be reformed first. The audit was requested last year by 24 legislators. Critics, including Gov. Nikki Haley, contend politics, not priorities, determine which highway projects the infrastructure bank funds. Two of the board's seven members are legislators and two others are appointed by legislators. "Today's audit is another reminder we must permanently reform the DOT and end the political horse trading of our roads by prioritizing funding based on traffic needs, safety and economic development in all areas of our state," said Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams.

The bill still in negotiations — with three days left in the regular legislative session — would give the DOT commission oversight of the banking board's decisions. It would also require the infrastructure

bank to fund projects based on the DOT's priority rankings. Assuming the bill becomes law, the audit's recommendations are essentially "going into effect anyway," said Rep. Chip

Limehouse, R-Charleston, an infrastructure board member.

The auditors' report found that the borrowing agency's application and decision processes lack written policies and consistency. And while the agency requires local governments to share in the expenses, there are no set rules for what percentage of a project's total cost must be funded locally and what qualifies as a match, the audit said. The report says the agency doesn't publicize when money's available or have a timeline for accepting applications and awarding grants. It has awarded money without an application. And unlike the DOT, the infrastructure bank doesn't have to follow state law on priority spending.

Graham, whom Haley appointed to the board last fall, said the board is addressing the concerns. Policy changes it approved Thursday include a formal application process and requiring a match to be cash. He said he'd also like the agency to function more like a real bank. "I want to shift from a grant-making institution to a bank where we make loans and charge interest and are paid back," he told a House oversight panel.



Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
4
6/1/2016
63186



Update from the House Care Bill becomes law

148 BY WAYNE GEORGE

After the House and Senate voted to override the Governor's veto on the Farm Aid Bill, both bodies voted to override the Governor's veto on S. 1016 the eye care consumer protection law. The legislation provides that a person in this state may not dispense spectacles or contact lenses to a patient without a valid prescription from an individual licensed by the South Carolina Board of Examiners in Optometry or the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners.

The House concurred with Senate amendments to H.4510 a bill establishing limitations on the number of foster children who may be placed in a foster home and enrolled the legislation for ratification. The legislation allows a foster home to provide full time care for up to eight children, with up to five of them being foster children. The exceptions to this maximum number include keeping a sibling group together, allow-

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the Senate H.3133 a bill that establishes protocol allowing someone who has been placed in the juvenile sex offender registry to petition the family court to remove the person's requirement to register as a sex offender once the individual reaches twenty one years of age. In addition, they must have been released from custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Dept of Corrections or SC Probation, Pardon, and Parole.

The House concurred with Senate amendments to H.3048 the SC founding Principles Act and enrolled the bill for ratification. The legislation requires the State Board of Education and Education Oversight Committee to incorporate instruction on the founding principles that shaped the United States Constitution and the South Carolina Social Studies Standards upon the next cyclical review.

The Speaker will likely call us back in session on Wednesday June 15 or Wednesday June 22 to vote on Governor Haley's vetoes.



Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
1A
6/1/2016
63186



¹⁴⁸Eagle awards presented to six scouts

From staff reports

FLORENCE – Six Eagle Scout awards were presented during an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on May 23 at First Presbyterian Church in Florence.

The six Scouts – Zachary Blakelock, Harrison Troy Smithey, Hong-Wei Evan Tan, Bryant Callaway Stokes, Harry Patterson Kannon and Griffin Walters – have a total of more than 30 years as being part of the scouting ministry of Troop 477. The Scouts along with friends spent more than 1,600 hours of community service working on their Eagle Scout service projects.

Pee Dee Area Scout executive Barry McDonald offered congratulations from the National council, and past council President Walt Barefoot read letters of congratulations from Florence Mayor Steven Wukela and S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley.

The Scouts were presented U.S. flags flown over the state capitol in their honor,

a gift from S.C. Rep. Jay Jordan of Florence.

Zachary Blakelock

Blakelock is the 18-year-old son of Richard and Ann Blakelock. He is a senior at West Florence High School and a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, and he participates in the church's youth group.

Blakelock started his scouting journey in Bristol, Connecticut, as a Tiger Cub in

Pack 425. He was an active Cub Scout and attended Cub Scout summer camp three consecutive years. He completed his Cub Scout journey by earning the Arrow of Light in early 2009. Moving into Troop 425, he continued his scouting journey and especially looked forward to the historic

See **SCOUTS**, Page 6

Scouts

From Page 1

trails trips, where he had the opportunity to visit Gettysburg, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Annapolis and Valley Forge and learn about their history.

In the summer of 2013, Blakelock and his family moved to Florence as part of his father's relocation with Otis Elevator Company. Wanting to continue his scouting journey, he joined Troop 477 that fall. Having trouble with the 2nd class swimming requirement, he was enrolled in a swim class and completed the requirement within a few months. He's still not a fan of swimming, though. With that behind him, he quickly moved up the remaining Boy Scout ranks and continued participating in most monthly campouts. His favorite trips have been the 50-mile AT (Appalachian Trail) hike in 2015, the Great Smoky Mountain Lost Sea Trip in 2014 and warm water tubing in Lake Robinson.

Blakelock's Eagle Service Project was clearing and installing marked posts along the nature trails at the Florence Presbyterian Community Home off West Lucas Street. A total of 56 service hours were recorded.

Blakelock is pursuing a job at the Otis Elevator factory and plans to enroll this fall at Florence-Darlington Tech.

Harrison Troy Smithey

Smithey is the 18-year-old son of Harry and Bonnie Smithey. He has two brothers, Cody and Ryan. He is a senior at South Florence High School and holds the rank of 1st lieutenant for South Florence NJROTC. Smithey is a member of the 1758 robotics team, the Technomancers, and has been all through high school. He is also a member of the Gooney Birds RC flying club and enjoys flying

his radio-controlled planes on weekends.

Smithey began scouting with Cub Scout Pack 241 in Lantana, Florida, and joined Boy Scout Troop 477 in 2009. He has held various patrol positions each year. He has been to Camp Coker six summers and has participated in two backpacking trips to Mount Rogers, Virginia, with one being a 50-miler on the Appalachian Trail. In 2013, he traveled to Canada's Algonquin Provincial Park and spent a week canoeing 50 miles in the wilderness. In 2014, he traveled to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, where he backpacked more than 70 miles in his 12-day trek and summited 12,441-foot Baldy Mountain. Smithey

was elected into the Order of the Arrow in 2011, earned 33 merit badges, the mile-swim award and three 50-miler awards.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Smithey removed a runway that was 12 feet wide and 200 feet long for the Gooney Birds. This included relocating a fence and capping a water line. Most of the work was done the first day, with some follow-up work the next day with a project total of 59 service hours.

Smithey will be staying in touch with Troop 477 and the friends he has made during camp outs. He plans to continue his path of controlling aircraft in the sky by pursuing a career in air traffic control.

Hong-Wei Evan Tan

Tan is the 15-year-old son of Kai-Song and J.C. Tan. He is a freshman at Florence Christian School, where he is a member of the Beta Club and golf team. Tan has been playing the violin since he was 6 years old, and he is a member of the Florence/Darlington Strings Orchestra. His music ability has qualified him to play at the All-Region and the All-State Orchestra. Tan is active in the Florence Baptist Temple

youth group.

Tan joined Cub Scout Pack 504 in the fourth grade and received his Arrow of Light. He then joined Troop 477 during his seventh grade year. Tan served as troop scribe and patrol leader during his second year in the troop. He was elected into the Order of the Arrow and took his ordeal in the fall of 2015. He holds the position of assistant senior patrol leader.

Tan's first big trip with Troop 477 took place in the summer of 2014, a five-day journey to the Great Smoky Mountain Lost Sea that really inspired his appreciation for nature and the wilderness. In the summer of 2015,

Tan and his father hiked the Appalachian Trail at Mount Rogers. Tan has been to Camp Coker two times and has earned 32 merit badges. He also earned the religious award, God and Country, in 2014. He plans to go to the 2017 National Scout Jamboree with his brother in West Virginia next summer.

For his Eagle Scout project, Tan designed, coordinated and created a raised flower bed for Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. He researched and developed the plans and put together times for fellow Scouts and friends to participate. The flower bed is being enjoyed every day at the facility. Tan totaled more than 85 hours of work on his project.

Scouting has provided Tan with many valuable lessons and helped him transform into the young man he is today. He plans to use these valuable lessons toward his next venture.

Bryant Callaway Stokes

Stokes is the 16-year-old son of Brantley and Stephanie Stokes. He is a sophomore at South Florence High School, where he is a part of the honors program. He is a member of South Florence Baptist Church and is active with the youth

Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
6A
6/1/2016
63186





program. Stokes enjoys fishing, hunting and power lifting. He plans to pursue a career in physical therapy and kinesiology after completing high school.

Stokes began scouting in the first grade. He joined Cub Scout Pack 477 and worked his way through the ranks. He developed his love of camping during those Cub Scout years. Stokes enjoyed fishing, exploring, learning about nature and camping on The Yorktown Carrier. Building Pinewood Derby cars and attending Cub-O-Weens at Camp Coker are some of his favorite

Cub Scout memories. After earning the Arrow of Light, Stokes crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 477.

Being a Boy Scout has helped Stokes develop into a well-prepared young man. Holding different positions in his troop has helped him develop leadership skills. Stokes has enjoyed adventures such as snorkeling with manatees in Florida, hiking on the Appalachian Trail and kayaking to Bulls Island. His favorite trip was in 2013 when he traveled to Canada's Algonquin Provincial Park. He spent more than a week camping there and canoed 50 miles of lakes. Stokes was elected into the Order of the Arrow in 2013, has earned the God and Church award and 26 merit badges. Most important, he has learned life skills that will be with him forever.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Stokes, with a crew of helpers, put in a handicap access ramp at the playground of his church. His project totaled 61 service hours.

Harry Patterson Kannon

Kannon is the 17-year-old son of Emily and Roger Coward and Pete Kannon of Hope Mills, North Carolina. He is a junior at West Flor-

ence High School, where he has been a member of the tennis team for the past three years. Kannon also is involved in the tennis club and is a member of the Beta Club.

Kannon is a member of St. John's Church and has been active in the youth group. He also serves as a Crucifer during church services.

Kannon began scouting with the guidance and encouragement of his uncle, Richard Walker. Kannon began as a Webelos in Pack 475 and joined Troop 477

in 2010. He has served the troop in various leadership roles, including quartermaster, patrol leader and senior patrol leader. Kannon enjoyed three summers at Camp Coker and was elected to the Order of the Arrow. He has earned 22 merit badges.

Being a member of Troop 477 enabled Kannon to experience backpacking adventures. Under the direction of Hunter Morgan, Kannon has hiked in the High Sierras of Yosemite National Park, paddled in Algonquin, Canada, and hiked 50 miles on the Appalachian Trail twice. In the summer of 2014, he braved the elements at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Kannon has earned the 50-Miler Award four times.

For his Eagle Project, Kannon organized members of the Beta Club at West Florence High School to ring the bells for the Salvation Army's yearly Christmas fund drive. He approached

the Salvation Army with a proposal to recruit students to ring bells every afternoon for one week, plus two entire Saturdays. He involved more than 33 students who rang bells for a total of 70 hours and raised nearly \$1,000.

Kannon is following in the proud footsteps of his Uncle, Pat Patterson, and his two cousins, Lawson Walker and Ricky Tyner, as an Eagle Scout.

Griffin Walters

Walters is the 14-year-old son of James and Darlene Walters Jr. He is in the ninth grade at Florence Christian School and has been attending FCS since 3K. Walters' favorite sport is soccer, which he has played since he was 3. Walters has played seven years of recreational soccer and seven years of select soccer and just finished playing his second year for the Florence Chris-

tian varsity soccer team. Walters attends Florence Baptist Temple and is active weekly in youth group.

Walters was a Cub Scout in Pack 476 and joined Troop 477 in 2012. He has enjoyed many outdoor activities in Troop 477, including his favorite, a 2014 multi-state trip that included the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, seeing the Cherokee outdoor drama, North Carolina whitewater rafting, spelunking the Lost Sea Cave in Tennessee and an Atlanta Braves game. In 2015, Walters hiked 50 miles on the Appalachian trail and biked the Virginia Creeper rail trail. Another favorite was a trip to Disney and camping in its Fort Wilderness campground and swimming with the manatees at Crystal River, Florida. Walters learned to snow ski during annual scout ski trips to the North Carolina mountains and water ski on camping trips to Lake Robinson.

Walters held multiple leadership positions, including scribe and assistant patrol leader. He was elected into the Order of the Arrow in 2013. He plans to attend Philmont Scout Ranch next summer.

Walters' Eagle Scout service project was building a boardwalk at Lee State Park to give easy access to the water for fishing and boating in the group camping area. He worked on the project for three months. The first month was planning and working with Brad Lane, the Lee State Park ranger. The

Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
6A
6/1/2016
63186





Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
6A
6/1/2016
63186



second and third month of the project was gathering supplies and raising money while building the boardwalk. The total boardwalk length ended up being 68 feet long. It cost more than \$1,300 and totaled more than 1,500 service hours.

Walters' plans include college at Francis Marion University and Georgia Tech and an engineering degree.



Six new Eagle Scout awards were presented on May 23 to (from left) Bryant Stokes, Zachary Blakelock, Patterson Kannon, Griffin Walters, Troy Smithey and Evan Tan.



Lake City News
& Post
Lake City, SC
Circ. 1747
From Page:
1A
6/1/2016
63162



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See **SCOUTS**, Page 6





Scouts

From Page 1

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Lake City News
& Post
Lake City, SC
Circ. 1747
From Page:
6A
6/1/2016
63162





Lake City News
& Post
Lake City, SC
Circ. 1747
From Page:
6A
6/1/2016
63162

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Cub Scout memories. After earning the Arrow of Light, Stokes crossed over to Boy Scout Troop 477.

Being a Boy Scout has helped Stokes develop into a well-prepared young man. Holding different

positions in his troop has helped him develop leadership skills. Stokes has enjoyed adventures such as snorkeling with manatees in Florida, hiking on the Appalachian Trail and kayaking to Bulls Island. His favorite trip was in 2013 when he traveled to Canada's Algonquin Provincial Park. He spent more than a week camping there and canoed 50 miles of lakes. Stokes was elected into the Order of the Arrow in 2013, has earned the God and Church award and 26 merit badges. Most important, he has learned life skills that will be with him forever.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Stokes, with a crew of helpers, put in a handicap access ramp at the playground of his church. His project totaled 61 service hours.

Harry Patterson Kannon

Kannon is the 17-year-old son of Emily and Roger Coward and Pete Kannon of Hope Mills, North Carolina. He is a junior at West Florence High School, where he has been a member of the tennis team for the past three years. Kannon also is involved in the tennis club and is a member of the Beta Club.

Kannon is a member of St. John's Church and has been active in the youth group. He also serves as a Crucifer during church services.

Kannon began scouting with the guidance and encouragement of his uncle, Richard Walker. Kannon began as a Webelos in Pack 475 and joined Troop 477

in 2010. He has served the troop in various leadership roles, including quartermaster, patrol leader and senior patrol leader. Kannon enjoyed three summers at Camp Coker and was elected to the Order of the Arrow. He has earned 22 merit badges.

Being a member of Troop





Lake City News
& Post
Lake City, SC
Circ. 1747
From Page:
6A
6/1/2016
63162



477 enabled Kannon to experience backpacking adventures. Under the direction of Hunter Morgan, Kannon has hiked in the High Sierras of Yosemite National Park, paddled in Algonquin, Canada, and hiked 50 miles on the Appalachian Trail twice. In the summer of 2014, he braved the elements at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Kannon has earned the 50-Miler Award four times.

For his Eagle Project, Kannon organized members of the Beta Club at West Florence High School to ring the bells for the Salvation Army's yearly Christmas fund drive. He approached the Salvation Army with a proposal to recruit students to ring bells every afternoon for one week, plus two entire Saturdays. He involved more than 33 students who rang bells for a total of 70 hours and raised nearly \$1,000.

Kannon is following in the proud footsteps of his Uncle, Pat Patterson, and his two cousins, Lawson Walker and Ricky Tyner, as an Eagle Scout.

Griffin Walters

Walters is the 14-year-old son of James and Darlene Walters Jr. He is in the ninth grade at Florence Christian School and has been attending FCS since 3K. Walters' favorite sport is soccer, which he has played since he was 3. Walters has played seven years of recreational soccer and seven years of select soccer and just finished playing his second year for the Florence Chris-

tian varsity soccer team. Walters attends Florence Baptist Temple and is active weekly in youth group.

Walters was a Cub Scout in Pack 476 and joined Troop 477 in 2012. He has enjoyed many outdoor activities in Troop 477, including his favorite, a 2014 multi-state trip that included the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, seeing the Cherokee outdoor drama, North Carolina whitewater rafting, spelunking the Lost Sea Cave in Tennessee and an Atlanta Braves game. In 2015, Walters hiked 50 miles on the Appalachian trail and biked the Virginia Creeper rail trail. Another favorite was a trip to Disney and camping in its Fort Wilderness campground and swimming with

the manatees at Crystal River, Florida. Walters learned to snow ski during annual scout ski trips to the North Carolina mountains and water ski on camping trips to Lake Robinson.

Walters held multiple leadership positions, including scribe and assistant patrol leader. He was elected into the Order of the Arrow in 2013. He plans to attend Philmont Scout Ranch next summer.

Walters' Eagle Scout service project was building a boardwalk at Lee State Park to give easy access to the water for fishing and boating in the group camping area. He worked on the project for three months. The first month was planning and working with Brad Lane, the Lee State Park ranger. The second and third month of the project was gathering supplies and raising money while building the boardwalk. The total boardwalk length ended up being 68 feet long. It cost more than \$1,300 and totaled more than 1,500 service hours.

Walters' plans include college at Francis Marion University and Georgia Tech and an engineering degree.



Six new Eagle Scout awards were presented on May 23 to (from left) Bryant Stokes, Zachary Blakelock, Patterson Kannon, Griffin Walters, Troy Smithey and Evan Tan.