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Subject: It's a great day in South Carolina! Hope all is well. KV



Greenwood Christian has first preseason practice, 1B

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2 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

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Haley announces Saluda County is Work Ready

By FRANK BUMB
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SALUDA — Gov. Nikki Haley had some exciting news for Saluda County residents Thursday.

At the Royce Foods plant, Haley announced Saluda County received Work Ready certification. The certification comes, in part, from having a certain percentage, different for each county, of workers, unemployed persons, college and high school students take and pass the WorkKeys assessment. Haley said the achievement will attract employers to the county.

"They're the fourth county to receive the certification in South Carolina," she said. "Every other county — Clarendon, McCormick and Calleton counties — once they received the certification companies contacted (the South Carolina Department of)

Commerce asking about those communities."

Work Ready certification also requires meeting goals for graduation rates, soft skills and public-private partnerships. Ramin Vahi, Royce Foods president, said the decision to support the Work Ready initiative was a no-brainer.

"We need quality employees," Vahi said. "The process of making the noodles we do is very exact, very technically precise. We need employees that can make fast decisions, who are smart. We need snappy employees."

Royce Foods, formerly Sunny Z Foods, moved to the old Milliken plant at 782 Columbia Highway in Saluda County in the spring of 2013. With a scheduled investment of \$12 million and 150 full-time jobs over five years, the announcement came as a huge boon to Saluda County.

"You have picked such an amazing community to move into. (At the time) this was the first major announcement we have had in Saluda County in 10 years," Haley said.

The Work Ready certification provides a beacon to employers that a county has the kinds of employees they need, Haley said.

South Carolina Manufacturer's Alliance President/CEO Lewis Gossett said employers of every stripe want a highly developed workforce.

"Everybody knows we have the power, the power, the water, the roads," Gossett said. "But they want to know if you've got the people that can fill the plants. If you've got those kinds of quality people in your workforce, you'll get the jobs to come. If you don't, you won't."

State Sen. Shane Mussey, Saluda

See **HALEY**, page 4A



Gov. Nikki Haley speaks with President and CEO of the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance Lewis Gossett while finishing her tour of Royce Foods plant in Saluda County. Haley was on hand Thursday morning to announce Saluda County's certification as Work Ready, the fourth county in South Carolina to receive that designation.

CAMPING OUT Kids complete Brewer Recreation summer program

By MATT BRUCE
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A throng of local youth put their talents on display Thursday morning as the Brewer Recreation Center held a graduation ceremony for its annual summer camp.

A dozen children ages 7 through 11 participated in the six-week day camp, which was held at the facility just off East

Cambridge Avenue. Many of the campers' parents were on hand for Thursday's farewell, which featured several performances involving activities the children learned during the summer.

"The boys and girls here have had a really good time," said Marcia Strong, who served as a teacher for this year's camp. "The children have really learned more sports than just basketball and football — like tennis, soccer and karate. Some

were so fast through these six weeks we couldn't finish everything the way that we wanted to because we had to move from one schedule to the next. But it was all fun and everyone really enjoyed it. Everything was just great this year."

Many of the campers made tie-dye T-shirts spray-painted with a collage of colors, which they wore during Thursday's

See **CAMP**, page 4A



A team of campers perform a "Chainsaw Dance" during a summer camp graduation and open house Thursday morning at the Brewer Recreation Center. From front are Jameira Little, Jakalin Pendermon, Jayson Williams, Brian Cheatham and Jonkin Davenport.

MATT BRUCE / INDEX-JOURNAL

METH

DEU closes out month with another bust

From staff reports

Greenwood County narcotics officers arrested a Hodges man Thursday during another meth bust.

Eric Scarborough, 27, of 110 Nation Road, was charged with manufacturing methamphetamine, distribution of meth, improper disposal of meth waste and felony possession of a firearm in connection with the incident.

Agents from the multi-jurisdictional Drug Enforcement Unit nabbed the suspect late Thursday afternoon, making it their eighth meth-related bust of July. Scarborough represented the 19th suspect booked on such charges during last month's wave. DEU officials said they responded to the suspect's residence to serve arrest warrants on the distribution charge.

See **METH**, page 4A



ERIC SCARBORO

NEW STORE

Wal-Mart Trust purchases land

By COLIN RIDDLE
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Wal-Mart quietly has been working on its second project in Greenwood.

Three tracts of land were purchased by the Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust, according to titles to real estate and a land title survey filed with the Greenwood County clerk's office.

The three tracts total more than 33 acres and cost the retail giant more than \$1.4 million. The future site is between Bypass 25 Northeast and Cambridge Avenue East.

According to building plans submitted to the county building department, the new store is set to encompass 157,000 square feet under roof and will include an auto center. Greenwood's current Wal-Mart Supercenter on Hwy. 72 Bypass NW is a little more than 199,000 square feet on about 25 acres.

Wal-Mart's South Carolina arsenal

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