



April 30, 2019 • Board of Trustees Meeting  
LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

# Proof Positive



*Emily Craigmyle*



*Jaci Fleming*



*Jacqueline Patrick*



*Daniel Schlies*



*Leathea Thomason*

## LHS Russian language students take gold

Lexington High's Russian language program continues to find success in competition, with five gold medal winners this year.

Nineteen LHS students competed in the National Russian Essay Contest, an annual competition organized by the American Council of Teachers of Russian. After only 12 weeks of instruction in the language, Emily R. Craigmyle, Jaci M. Fleming, Jacqueline K. Patrick and Daniel P. Schlies scored high enough to earn a gold medal and certificate from ACTR.

Students receive a written prompt and, with no time to practice and without dictionaries or notes, must compose an essay in Russian within the 2-hour time limit.

Lexington High's Leathea A. Thomason also brought home a gold medal for her Russian language expertise. Thomason competed in the Olympiada of Spoken Russian — Carolinas District against the best students from the region.

Also sponsored by ACTR, this competition challenges students to demonstrate their mastery of the Russian language. Students must score between 91 and 100 for gold.

Thomason impressed the judges by reciting Russian poetry, engaging in a conversation in Russian, and demonstrating knowledge of Russian culture, history and geography.

## District thanks parent for quick action

A Lexington District One parent of a Lexington High student jumped into action and aided an injured student at Lexington Technology Center. The district appreciates his quick action and response.

Tracey Foster, a former medic in the U.S. Army, immediately rendered medical aid to a student struck by a car early one school day.

Humble in talking about his actions, Foster says his instincts simply kicked in and allowed him to help.

Thank you

# Wildcat senior nets double basketball honors

During the Lady Wildcats' historic run this season, senior Olivia R. Thompson broke records of her own.

Thompson completed her high school basketball career scoring 579 points in her senior season for a 4-year total of 1,937 points, a new LHS record. Averaging 20 points and 2.6 steals a game, she won the 5A Girls Player of the Year from the S.C. Basketball Coaches Association.

Thompson also scored an invitation to play in the Carolinas Classic All-Star Game with other top seniors from North and South Carolina.

Coming up just short of a state title, LHS wrapped up the season with a 24-5 record after advancing to the Lower State finals for the first time in 40 years. Thompson led the way as LHS won a region championship and playoff games against James Island, Wando and West Florence.

She plans to play for the University of South Carolina next year.



## Eight seniors named National Merit finalists

All of Lexington District One's National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists moved on to the finalist round this spring.

The National Merit Scholarship Program named eight Lexington District One students as National Merit finalists: Haley F. Kubilus from Gilbert High; Hoda E. Abdalla, Mehul Jain, Paul T. Kim, Raymond Lin, Kevin Shah and Winni Zheng from Lexington High; and Alexander M. Pendris from River Bluff High.

Each year, thousands of students submit test scores, teacher recommendations, community service hours and personal essays. The program selects those who show exceptional academic ability, with semifinalists representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

According to National Merit, about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship.

Scholarships include National Merit Scholarships worth \$2,500 each, college-sponsored Merit Scholarships that provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study, and about 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships.



*Top left: Alexander Pendris*

*Top right: Haley Kubilus*

*Bottom (left to right): Winni Zheng, Hoda Abdalla, Paul Kim, Raymond Lin, Kevin Shah and Mehul Jain*



# Rawl wins golf POY

The accolades continue for Lexington High's Isabella H. Rawl. A freshman, Rawl led the Lady Wildcats to their 13th state golf title, earning her the title of 5A Golf Player of the Year.

Rawl received her award from the S.C. Coaches Association of Women's Sports in February.

At the state tournament, Rawl finished first with a 144, four strokes ahead of the second-place finisher. She landed at or near the top of the leaderboard at multiple other tournaments throughout the season.

Courted by college programs as an eighth grader, Rawl plans to play golf for Clemson University after she wraps up her Wildcat career.



*Group Acting winners*



*Reader's Theatre winners*

## Back-to-back champions of the stage

Two groups from Pleasant Hill Middle won first place in separate categories at the South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association Middle School Festival.

Competing in the Group Acting category, winners include Ally K. Avayou, Ashley L. Mayer, Wyatt N. O'Cain, Jacob A. Schrodtt, Anna F. Wehr, Kaycie A. Wellman and Olivia G. Whetstone. They performed three scenes from the play "The 10 Best/Worst Things About Middle School."

First-place winners in the Reader's Theatre competition include Ainsley A. Davis, Dominic A. Feraci, Emmeline C. McKelvey, Mary-Margaret L. Mims and Amanda C. Nicholson. This group scored high marks with their adaptation of the children's book *More Pies!*

PHMS drama students are back-to-back state winners in both categories after last year's first-place performances.

## Guitarists tune their skills to all-state selection

Three Lexington District One music programs sent all-state musicians to perform at a statewide conference last month.

Gilbert High's Craig R. Hefflin, River Bluff High's Lilly M. Fort, and White Knoll High's Tristan C. Groscost, Zoe K. Kimble, Cailey M. Williams and W. Reid Wooten made the South Carolina Music Educators Association's 2019 All-State Guitar ensemble. They performed at the SCMEA Professional Development Conference at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

These talented musicians will play with the all-state ensemble once again during the 3rd Annual South Carolina Guitar Festival at River Bluff High School on May 11.

# 4-H team leaps over competition

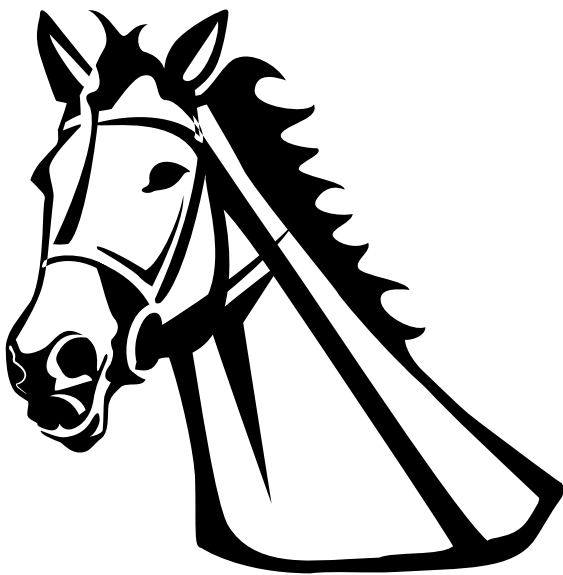
Two Lexington District One students won first place at the annual S.C. 4-H Hippology and Horse Bowl contests.

Competing as part of the Country Springs 4-H Horse Club's junior team, Carolina Springs Middle's Haley D. Collins and Forts Pond Elementary's Brooke K. Stalnaker took first place in both events. The junior team also won second place in the Team Problem event.

The Hippology Contest tests riders' knowledge of horses and horse-related items from any aspect of the horse industry. Contest elements include a written exam, horse judging, identification of items and/or their uses, and problem solving.

Modeled after a game show, the Horse Bowl tests riders on horses and related knowledge.

In the individual standings, Stalnaker won third place in horse judging, while Collins finished seventh in the stations category.



## Student art earns 'golden' achievement

Three Lexington District One artists won a Gold Key from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for capturing their subjects in a fresh way.

Winners include Lexington High's Jordyn A. Stewart, River Bluff High's Josef E. Ivory and White Knoll High's Mary L. Ray.

Stewart entered "Basquiat x Kikkujo" in the drawing and illustration category, while Ray used mixed media to depict "Pain." Ivory won for his photograph entitled "Serenity."

Presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards celebrate student artists, writers, filmmakers, photographers, poets and sculptors. Students not only have their work exhibited or published, they also receive opportunities for future scholarships.

All Gold Key works move on to national judging in New York City.





# Elementary wrestlers win big

They may be small in stature, but three Lexington District One elementary students are already winning state championships.

Winners at the South Carolina Youth Wrestling Association State Championships include Lake Murray Elementary's Landon J. Hegler, Pleasant Hill Elementary's Sy W. Strobel and Rocky Creek Elementary's Lawson S. Tran.

Each wrestler had to win qualifying matches to advance to state.

Tran won the 40-lb. weight class in the 6-and-under division.

In the 8-and-under division, Hegler won the 61-lb. weight class.

Strobel came out on top in the 10-and-under division in his 70-lb. weight class.



*Landon Hegler*



*Sy Strobel*



*Lawson Tran*

*Left to right: Gaven Baker, Dalton Price, Parker Palmer, Chance Kilcrease, Isaac Manning, Michael Keisler, William Butler and Isaac Ortega*

## Senior wrestlers win state, land all-star bids

The culmination of the high school wrestling season saw two Lexington District One wrestlers atop the podium, while others scored invites to the all-star match.

Lexington High's Chance W. Kilcrease and River Bluff High's William J. Butler took their weight class at the 5A state championship, held Feb. 23. Kilcrease won 4-3 in the 145-lb. class, while Butler took the 160-lb. title with a pin.

Kilcrease finishes his Wildcat career with more than 150 wins.

Butler led the Gator Grapplers to a runner-up finish at the state finals.

Both state champions earned an invitation to the North-South All-Star Wrestling Classic. Other all-star wrestlers include Gilbert High's Gaven L. Baker and Dalton L. Price, Lexington High's Isaac K. Manning and River Bluff High's Michael L. Keisler, Isaac N. Ortega and Parker H. Palmer.

Butler, Kilcrease and Manning competed on Team SC in the main event. Baker and Price competed on the 4A/3A South team. Ortega and Palmer represented their schools on the 5A/2A/1A team.

# Grant brings bowling to Saxe Gotha

Saxe Gotha Elementary's Kimberly A. Lewis and D. Michelle Vestal received a \$2,500 grant to offer special education students a new sport to play.

Lewis and Vestal applied for an International Bowling Campus Youth Development Bowler's Ed In-School Bowling Program Grant.

They won enough kits to operate six bowling lanes at SGES for special education students and their Unified PE partners. Students in other physical education classes will also have access to the lanes and equipment.

According to International Bowling Campus Youth Development, the program provides schools with opportunities to teach students the sport of bowling by providing instructional curriculum and equipment. Besides providing a true bowling experience, the kits feature activities that enhance students' cardiovascular health, coordination and endurance while showing them how much fun bowling offers.



## Scholarship aids pursuit of library science degree



The South Carolina Association of School Librarians awarded White Knoll Middle's Suzanne Brooks a scholarship to continue her education.

Currently WKMS's digital learning coach, Brooks received the Nancy Jane Day Scholarship. She plans to use the funds to support the completion of a master's degree in Library Science from the University of South Carolina in the fall.

One school library graduate student or current school librarian receives the statewide scholarship each year. It honors the memory of Nancy Jane Day, who served as supervisor of library services for the South Carolina Department of Education for 24 years.

The recipient can use the scholarship to cover the cost of one successfully completed course taken to improve job performance or to complete a graduate degree in library science. Applicants must be in good academic standing, supported by a letter of recommendation from their professor.



## Fifth grader flips his way to gold medals

Deerfield Elementary's Dalton M. Hall-Black won not just one event at this year's youth gymnastics state championship — he took gold in six events.

Hall-Black, a fifth grader, represented Lake Murray Gymnastics at the USA Gymnastics South Carolina Men's State Championship, held March 9.

Competing in Level 7, Division 2 in the 10-and-11-year-old age group, Hall-Black took gold in all six events including floor, pommel horse, vault, still rings, high bar and parallel bars. He also received an all-around gold medal for winning his individual events.

He represented South Carolina earlier this month at USA Gymnastics Regionals, finishing seventh overall against athletes from Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.





## A blue ribbon for fine arts

The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation named Lexington District One as one of the Best Communities for Music Education for the second year in a row.

Led by Academically and Artistically Gifted and Talented Coordinator Erin FitzGerald and Fine Arts Lead Teacher Kelli P. Rooks, the district's music and arts offerings provide students with unique opportunities to learn, grow and display their many talents.

Lexington District One boasts superior-rated orchestras, choirs and bands, all-state musicians and singers, state champion theater groups, exemplary dance programs and nationally recognized artists.

According to the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation, the award recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and community leaders who make music education part of a well-rounded education. This honor recognizes districts that serve students across grade levels and multiple schools with high-quality fine arts programs.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Lexington District One submitted information about graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs.



## Uniting for a common goal

During the United Way of the Midlands' 2018 fundraising campaign, Lexington District One schools and employees gave generously.

Pleasant Hill Elementary, represented by Employee Campaign Director Sarah T. Kolb, raised the most money among elementary schools with a gift of \$4,344.

In the middle school category, Meadow Glen Middle, represented by ECD Davis H. Myers, came out on top with a donation of \$1,591.

Lexington Technology Center, represented by ECD Mark A. Brannock, claimed bragging rights in the high school category with donations totaling \$3,332.

At Central Services, Instructional Services, represented by ECD Becky Ligon, raised the most support with donations totaling \$4,819.

District contributions for 2018 overall came to \$45,116, an increase of \$2,600 over the 2017 campaign.

The money raised supports United Way of the Midlands initiatives such as literacy tutoring for second graders, and assistance for low-income families through Mission Lexington, and WellPartners Children and Adult Dental Clinics. The children's dental clinic in Lexington County served 114 students from Lexington District One last year.



**United Way  
of the Midlands**

# SCASA honors RBHS with Palmetto's Finest

During a live announcement televised across the state on March 19, the South Carolina Association of School Administrators named River Bluff High one of its 2019 Palmetto's Finest Schools.



The team leading the efforts at RBHS include Principal Luke C. Clamp, Ed.D., Assistant Principals Tara D. Black, Justin Cegelis, Eric S. Dowdy, Meg H. Huggins and Jacob N. Smith, Athletic Director C. Blair Hardin, Director of Counseling and Advisement Marci P. Newman, Director for Student Life Avis M. Cunningham and Data Management Specialist Margaret Ann White, as well as Student Council Members Jackson R. Jeffcoat, Caroline G. Payne, Jeremiah T. Reeves and N. Woods Wooten.

Palmetto's Finest Schools awards recognize schools that offer excellent instruction and outstanding leaders, augmented by strong family and community involvement, and a supportive business community.

The SCASA selection process includes a comprehensive review of a school's program, focusing on the key question: "What impact is this school making on the lives of students and the community, and is it deserving of the Palmetto's Finest Award?"

RBHS features a modern approach to classroom learning using modular scheduling. Students create schedules with instructional periods of varying sizes mixed with independent learning time, resulting in personal achievement, growth of character, and leadership and service opportunities.



References to trademark and brand ownership have been removed for ease of reading, but in all cases should be taken as read and respected.

Lexington County School District One is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, parents/legal guardians, staff, visitors, personnel and community members who participate or seek to participate in its programs or activities. Therefore, the district does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or any related medical conditions), color, disability, age, genetic information, national origin or any other applicable status protected by local, state or federal law.

The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district designates specific individuals to handle inquiries or complaints. To find out whom to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at [lexington1.net/contact-us](http://lexington1.net/contact-us).