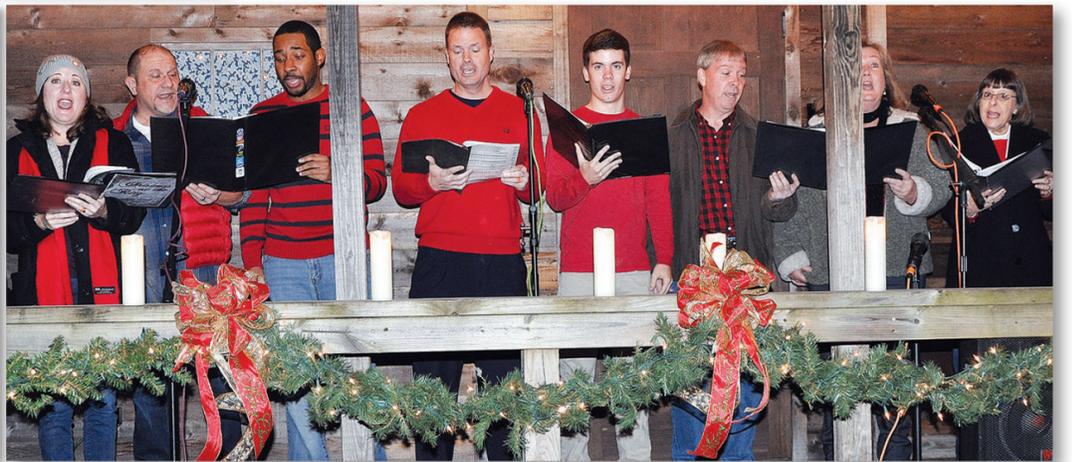


Christmas in Loris



Plenty took part, or looked on as Loris brought in the Christmas season Friday with its annual tree lighting ceremony and parade. Highlights included, clockwise from top, left, Grinch on a float; Santa and Mrs. Claus greeting children prior to the parade; Christmas at the Ritz singers directed by Ann Jernigan; and a big wave from a float. (Jenn Boyd, TLT)



By JENN CAUSEY
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Council OKs employee bonuses, considers earlier meetings beginning in '19

City workers in Loris will have some extra spending money for Christmas, and Loris City Council will hold its monthly meetings earlier in the evening starting in the new year, both decisions made by council Monday.

Council approved a \$200 Christmas bonus for city employees, which includes a safety incentive bonus of \$100 given annually.

Mayor Henry Nichols said moving council meetings an hour earlier, from 7 to 6 p.m.

on the first Monday of each month, will be good for city government.

"Changing the time will help everyone get on with their evening and handle any business they have that evening," Nichols said.

It was not clear Monday if the change will take place in time for, or after council's next regular meeting on Jan. 7, 2019. Council approved the change on first reading, but a

second approval is required before the change is effective.

Council could hold a special meeting later this month to approve the time change, but notice of such a meeting had not been given as of Tuesday.

City Hall

An evaluation is not yet complete for Loris City Hall to determine how, or if the facility can be repaired following

extensive damage caused by Hurricane Florence in September, City Administrator Damon Kempinski told council.

"It is a process and we are at the mercy of FEMA and South Carolina Emergency Management," Kempinski said.

Kempinski said city leaders have ongoing meetings with organizations that involved in those evaluations, with no indication yet on when that work will be complete, or the

status of an insurance claim by the city.

Prayer breakfast

This month's city prayer breakfast is scheduled for 7 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11, at Loris Elementary, Mayor Nichols said.

Free to the public, the breakfast should last an hour, the mayor said.

TC Christmas (Continued from Page 1)

ing 'Twas the Night before Christmas at the Santa House at 11 a.m.

• Christmas at the Ritz, Reclaim Ministry will present the first of two afternoon shows at noon at The Ritz Center, this one including lunch. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Second showing is at 3 p.m.

• Santa's Workshop at the Tabor City Fire Department at 1 p.m., admission is \$5 or a tow. Santa's elves will greet children and decorate cookies. At 2 p.m. elves will help children write letters to Santa, with the promise of a return letter from Santa's Helpers.

• All Aboard for a showing of Polar Express on the Big Screen at 3 p.m. in the Ritz Plaza. Free admission,

refreshments will be on sale.

• Live Nativity begins at 5 p.m. at Lake Tabor.

• Christmas Flotilla starts at 6 p.m. at Lake Tabor. Registration begins at 5 p.m. Chamber leaders ask that those interested in entering boats pre-register by calling 910-317-3012.

Expect Sandy, Cindy Lou Who, the Grinch and more.

For more on events sponsored by the Chamber, including the Christmas Flotilla and tree lighting, contact Cynthia Nelson at 910-377-3012 or tccofo@yahoo.com.

For more on the Bringing Back Main events contact Pam Byrd at 910-625-7974 of southernbyrd@hotmail.com.

Assistance (Continued from Page 3)

Farmer assistance

Farmers with damage from Tropical Storm Michael may be eligible for disaster assistance from the Hurricane Florence Agricultural Disaster Program of 2018.

The \$240 million bill approved by the N.C. General Assembly will help farmers with storm damage and agricultural losses from both Hurricane Florence and Tropical Storm Michael.

The program will directly assist farmers who suffered losses to commodities planted but not harvested before Sept. 13, 2018 and livestock. The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services will administer the program.

Those applications

are also due Dec. 13. The application process takes about 30 minutes per farm, and assistance is available by calling 1-866-645-9403.

Emergency food, shelter Old Zion Wesleyan Church east of Tabor City has received an Emergency Food & Shelter Program grant and can provide food and utility/energy assistance for eligible families.

Applications must be made in-person from 10 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at the church Family Life Center, 10144 Swamp Fox Hwy East, about 11 miles east of Tabor City.

For details call 910-918-3624.

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