guidelines you must follow to shred documents," Fowler said. "We submitted a detailed list of everything that was to be shredded.

"Easements are kept forever. Bonds (that are kept for 10 years), grants (these are kept for three years) and blueprints can be shredded. We also shredded old meter readings, which took up three shelves. There was nothing that was destroyed that Kempski and Mayor Nichols didn't know."

Fowler said nothing needed for an audit was destroyed.

Who knew?

Former councilman Michael Dozier said Tuesday council as a whole was not aware of the shredding pro-

"As most already know not much was automated and everything was being done by hand," Dozier said. "There were a lot of old documents that were no longer legally needed. I can't remember if we knew specifically that shredding would take place. Maybe the finance and personnel

History, there are strict committee was overseeing, but council as a whole was definitely not."

> Councilman Michael Suggs said Tuesday that he could not recall council even discussing the shredding of documents, but that any plan to destroy records should have been brought to

"Just because there are documents that legally could be disposed of does not mean they should have been," Suggs said. "There might be reasons for documents to be kept.

"That's what happens when you have people who have never been involved in city government who come in and want to make changes when they don't necessarily know what they are doing."

City attorney

Mayor protem Todd Harrelson Tuesday said Fowler called him Monday afternoon, asking for his e-mail address so that she could send "some documents" to

password protected, and Harrelson said he did not relson said. open them. Fowler late Tues-



Loris documents ready for shredding in this image provided by former City Clerk/Treasurer Bridget Fowler

day said they were the same documents she provided to this newspaper earlier in the

Harrelson said he forwarded those documents to City Attorney Kenneth Moss, who said he will "go over them in the future.

"Whatever is in the docu-Those documents were ments, if it's helpful to the city, I appreciate it," Har-

Good thing

Fowler said she put in leaving." safeguards for city documents before resigning in online links to the docu-November 2016 because ments that were needed, she knew the importance of and that they were "never those files, and of the state mandated audits.

I offered to help them before reporting by Deuce Niven

Fowler said she provided opened.

"Before I left there was "Audits are a good thing," seven items that needed to Fowler said. "Everything for be looked at and corrected both audits is on a shared in water and sewer side to secure iCloud. No one asked finish audit. Once done, about it after I left. No one the audit could be officially has asked any questions and completed." – Additional

Loris native agrees to federal plea

Loris native John Hardee, a longtime former commissioner of the S.C. Department of Transportation, has agreed to admit guilt in a federal case involving the destruction of evidence in a criminal investigation. The State newspaper in Columbia reports.

Hardee, in a seven-page agreement filed in U.S. District Court in South Carolina, said he would plead guilty to the federal felony charge that he took part in a cover-up by trying to destroy evidence.

Those documents provide no details on the background of the charges, and the U.S. attorney's office, which did not issue a news release on the agreement, said only "While this is an important case for the U.S. attorney's office, we cannot comment at this time." the newspaper

reported. Attorneys for Hardee would not say if the charges were related to his duties on the transportation board.

Tabor City goals Tabor City's downtown, per- building.

haps linked to a proposed rail • New brick sidewalk from tourism effort that could link the new depot to downtown, coming years. (See related story on Page 1 today.)

the presentation, his services paid for by a grant secured ingexisting decorative lights. by state Repl. Brenden Jones of Tabor City, that funding • important and appreciated destrian access and safety." by council, Leonard said.

"It's a huge plan, all encompassing, probably a 20-year plan," Leonard said.

Deficiencies in the downtown area's anchor properties, including the Town Gate, Public Library property, and hance the scenery. Depot museum are highlighted in the preliminary LKC plan, with significant recommendations for improvement that include:

A new rail depot museum located along the railroad tracks behind the library, and relocating the caboose now located off of West 4th Plan," and Leonard said Street "to integrate" with the building.

A new depot park with stage for civic use, located adjacent to the new depot with the stakeholders, the ingfinal word,"Leonard said.

the town and Conway in the terminating with a new "Gateway Bell Tower to the heart of town, while main-LKC's Bill Lester made taining existing memorials."

 New street lights match-New brick paving.

New crosswalks "for pe-

A new design for library parking, repaving, and new paving at the depot park. Removing some existing

parking on Main Street and Hickman Road to create "landscape islands" to en-

New brick sidewalk from the library to the Visitor

· Move overhead power lines and other utilities underground.

There's a lot to see in the large-format 29-page "Downtown Streetscape Master council will be trying to set priorities in what could prove to be a decades long process.

"We want to share this

Chamber of Commerce, Committee of 100, Bringing Back Main and others and get their feedback," Leonard said.

Business incubator

(Continued from Page 1)

Promotions Director Diane Ward discussed efforts to secure a new business incubator downtown, and said the recent federal government shutdown had slowed that process.

An Oct. 26 letter from the Atlanta office of the Economic Development Administration indicated approval for the plan, with additional approvals needed from Washington, DC. That decision has not been made, Leonard said, leaving the town hopeful for final approval as federal operations resume.

Funding for the proposed \$1 million project that will focus on the former Heilig Meyers building on 5th Street, recommended by the Atlanta EDA office, includes \$800,000 in federal money, \$200,000 from town govern-

"We are anxiously await-

Live burn provides training, encouragement

Fully involved, firefighters work on hose technique

as they burn this Miller Road house Saturday

Story & Photos By DEUCE NIVEN

"Was that your first time in a burning building," veteran Williams Township firefighter Doug Gaskin asked after Fair Bluff Fire/ Rescue rookie Shauna Davis emerged from an old house on Miller Road Saturday morning.

Fire Department, the Fair Bluff, Nakina and Evhouse provided an opportunity for valuable training, the kind that can be hard to find, Loris Fire Dept. Lt. Robert Rudelitch, inside, outside, and on top who assisted with the of the house.

training said.

"It's important," Rudeltribdeuce@tabor-loris.com itch said. "Columbus County doesn't have a live burn training facility, so this is a real opportunity.

> It was an opportunity that had Davis smiling when Gaskin asked his question, her reply simple. "Yes," she said.

Firefighters from Rose-Hosted by Tabor City land, Williams Township, ergreen fire departments and Columbus County's Air Truck were also involved in the training,



Firefighter veteran Doug Gaskin, rookie Shauna Davis share a moment



Rooftop ventilation training

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- · Pancreatitis
- · Liver Disease

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