

— Kindness —

(Continued from page 1)

She was near her car one day when an older gentleman walked by visibly cold, and when she inquired about his coat, he said he didn't have one and he was willing to accept one that fit well from her car. A few times a year since then she put on one-day events, the first time giving away 300 coats or accessories and offering homemade soup. The Jaycees offered their building for the event, and she's set up in other locations, but this new permanent space is offering a better place for receiving donations and for distributions.

"My biggest need right now is men's and boys' coats," Clark said. "Men don't think about clearing out their closets like women do, and boys just wear theirs out, so that's what we really need."

In addition to warm outerwear, the non-profit offers blankets, gloves, scarves and hats, and she asked that they be clean and "gently used."

She has some racks of brand new coats, and packages of socks donated by Renfro. Several companies and agencies have also provided new coats as well.

With the need to try and keep the new location open, she asks customers now if



COATS OF KINDNESS — Shirley Clark started her coat ministry three years ago and it now has a permanent location open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Located at 205-C Fleming Street, it's in a side door of the former Mattress Warehouse just up the hill from McDonalds.

they are willing to make any small donation for the items, but that doesn't get in the way of anyone leaving with a warm coat or needed items.

"I've been that single mom who had to choose between warm clothes and food and things my children needed," Clark said. "The difference was I was surrounded by a group of friends and family who would take my children

winter clothes shopping, and everyone doesn't have that."

The Coats of Kindness store is located at a side door to the right of what was formerly Mattress Warehouse, to the left of Holman Printing, just up the hill from McDonalds.

Anyone who can't make it to her regular Saturday hours can call to make an appointment at 864-923-1879.



Photo by John Clayton

ON THE JOB — The new \$130,000 Laurens County Library Bookmobile was introduced Tuesday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the Laurens Historic Square. The new Bookmobile will be in service immediately.

— Bookmobile —

(Continued from page 1)

said. "It will really help everybody Plus, it's safer because it has backup cameras and things like that."

Although the Bookmobile may be new and now includes movies and audio books in

addition to traditional books, its main function will continue to be bringing library services to rural Laurens County and to young and old who may not be able to get to the Laurens and Clinton branches of the library.

"We are in the service busi-

ness and this is going to allow us to serve the population of Laurens County at even greater lengths," said Bookmobile Librarian Julian Shabazz, who will be behind the wheel of the new Bookmobile along with fellow librarian Mary Ellen Lides.

Breaking bad luck

Good questions don't just grow on trees, but today's questions were specially "picked" by a couple of curious column readers.

QUESTION: Why do we call a loved one "the apple of one's eye?"

REPLY: This is an old idiom, of course — an expression of figurative meaning. The pupil is the central, dark opening of the eye and comes from the Latin word pupilla, which literally means "doll." Apple was an early term for the pupil of the eye because it was thought to be a solid, apple-shaped body. Being essential to sight, the eye's apple — or pupil — was a cherished thing, much like how a loved one is a cherished part of one's life. The phrase is used in the Old Testament of the Bible several times:

"He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye." (Deuteronomy 32:10, KJV)

"Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye." (Proverbs 7:2, KJV)

For more biblical uses of this phrase, check out Psalm 17:8 and Zechariah 2:8.

QUESTION: Why is it believed that breaking a mir-



CURIOSITY CORNER
Dr. Jerry D. Wilson
Emeritus Professor
Lander University

ror will bring seven years of bad luck?

REPLY: This superstition is believed to have started with the ancient Romans, who supposedly thought they saw their souls when looking at their reflections in the water of gazing pools. It was considered a bad omen for someone to drop something — or throw a stone — into the water. Doing so would break up the observer's image and cause one to lose contact with one's soul. Bad luck followed — seven years' worth, to be exact.

Gazing pools went out when mirrors came in, so breaking a mirror carried the same effect. I suggest getting a metal mirror, just to be on the safe side.

To show you how my mind works, I'm curious about this: suppose you broke a mirror and then broke another just a few days later. Would your terms of bad luck

(seven years) be served concurrently or consecutively? You be the judge.

C.P.S. (Curious Postscript): If you think education is expensive, try ignorance. — Derek Bok

Curious about something? Send your questions to Dr. Jerry D. Wilson, College of Science and Mathematics, Lander University, Greenwood, SC 29649, or email jerry@curiosity-corner.net. Selected questions will appear in the Curiosity Corner. For Curiosity Corner background, go to www.curiosity-corner.net.

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Fortney inducted at ceremony

After serving his country during the Vietnam War, Wilgus "Gus" Fortney returned stateside to continue a life of public service. Recently, Mr. Fortney reached a new milestone: 40 years in the EMS and 45 years of dedication to the fire service. Even in his 70s, Mr. Fortney continues to be



Wilgus Fortney

an active participant within the field of fire and EMS. Whether serving as an EMT test evaluator at Upstate EMS Council, the Assistant Chief of the Joanna Fire Department, or a Paramedic with Thorne Ambulance Service — Gus is always ready to serve when called upon. In a field that sees high turnover rates and minimal pay despite long and treacherous work hours, Gus continues to bring the same level of compassion and dedication as he did on day one.

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