



HONORED FOR SERVICE — Dr. Stephen Peters, Police Chief Chrissie Cofield and Willie Paden were honored for their leadership in the city and Laurens County.

Photo by Judith Brown

— Honored —

(Continued from page 1)

Their efforts work finally resulted in African American representation on county council and the city councils by the late 1980s.

Honoring these local community heroes is important, Sullivan said. "Black History is part of American history," said Sullivan, who recognized Laurens County District 55 Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Peters. "We are making history tonight, and there have been many who have shaped this history."

"I graciously and humbly accept this award on behalf of all the hard-working teachers, administrators,

cafeteria workers, bus drivers, secretaries, teacher assistants and all the staff of District 55," he said. "I wouldn't be standing here had it not been for the hard work of those closest to the work."

Paden has long been retired but he doesn't want to retire from community involvement.

"I kept learning," Paden said. "And the more you learn the more you see you have to do."

Council member Sara Latimore said there are many who have served and are gone, but she thinks it's also important to honor those still employed as leaders in the city, as

she called up Laurens Police Chief Chrissie Cofield.

Latimore said it was important to her as a council member in Laurens that Cofield is the first African American police chief in Laurens and the first female African American chief law officer anywhere in Laurens County.

"Thank you for entrusting me to be a leader and the police chief in the city," Cofield said. "It's a wonderful feeling knowing that you can entrust your employees, knowing that they are going to do their jobs because they are trained well and are doing everything are trained to do."

— Museum —

(Continued from page 1)

potential future Native American Artifact Lab downstairs for those who cannot use the wide stairwell at the entrance of the downtown museum location.

The LCMA has rented out retail space for antiques on the first floor of the Dominick Building, which shares a wall with the Witherspoon Building. The space formerly held Laurens Furniture and was previously owned by Bob Dominick.

Organizers hope that the knowledge that the association is working to become more self-sufficient will encourage more donors for the needed elevator.

"We have about \$30,000 toward the elevator," said Shortt, when she spoke to Laurens City Council. "But construction costs keep going up and the longer we wait the higher the price becomes," Shortt said.

The current bid of \$180,000 is \$10,000 higher than last year, she explained.

"We have a lot of funds that are earmarked for other things," said Debbie Vaughn, who serves as a

fundraising coordinator. "We haven't borrowed any money and we hope we don't have to."

The museum is hoping that many in the community will come see the work already accomplished in the Witherspoon building, 116 South Public Square, during its two upcoming events. The March 21

Chamber event is free and will start at 5:30 p.m. The annual LCMA Spring Gala is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 12, and is ticketed and open to the public.

For more information contact Vaughn at 864-683-3688 or dnc-vaughn@yahoo.com or Fay Edge at 864-923-0083.

Ware Shoals High student arrested for making bomb threat

By John Clayton
Editor

A Ware Shoals High School student was arrested Wednesday and charged with making a verbal bomb threat at the school.

Ware Shoals School District 51 announced the arrest on its Facebook page, saying that officials at the school and the school resource officer "took swift action to ensure safety."

The post went on to say that disciplinary policies will be

followed regarding the student.

"Keeping students safe is our priority," the post read.

Clinton pair face drug charges

A Clinton couple faces drug charges after being arrested Tuesday by investigators from the Laurens County Sheriff's Office.

Brandon Scott Jones, 32, is charged with trafficking methamphetamine, trafficking

heroin and being in possession of a stolen pistol.

According to reports, Jones was allegedly had with him 154 grams of meth and about six grams of heroin. He was in possession of a Glock .45-caliber pistol.

Rebecca Nicole Wilkie, 27, of the same Clinton address as Jones, is charged with possession of narcotics with intent to distribute and possession of a controlled substance. Both those charges are second offenses.

LDHS Black History program Wednesday

Laurens District 55 High School will host its annual Black History Program this Wednesday, Feb. 27, and author and cyber security expert Derrick Barksdale will serve as this year's guest speaker.

Barksdale grew up in Ora and was educated in Laurens County School District 55.

He holds several post-secondary degrees, including a doctor of ministry degree in leadership. His autobiography, "The Sorgham Press," chronicles events in his life that helped shape his views on leadership and his leadership skills. He spent 18 years working in cyber security and is considered an expert

in the field. He is also pastor of Duncan Creek Baptist Church in Laurens.

Reserved seating is needed to attend the event, which begins at 10:30 a.m. at the LDHS gym. To reserve a seat for the Black History Month observance at LDHS, call the high school office at 864-682-3151.

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