



Photo by Judith Brown

FAMILY TIES — Haden Copeland, left, welcomed friends, families and fellow Chamber of Commerce members to a ribbon cutting Thursday morning at The Copeland Agency, the Allstate provider on West Main Street in Clinton. As the agency's new owner, Hayden will run the agency with his sister, Sara Beth Copeland, right, and their mother, Beth Copeland.

Keeping the family close in new business

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

Haden Copeland admits that a pizza order and an insurance policy are not at all similar, but the young Clinton native said years of working in the food industry does teach you about customer service, and he's taking that knowledge into a new venture as the owner of The Copeland Agency. The business includes his mom, Beth Copeland, and his younger sister, Sara Beth Copeland.

"I worked at Dempsey's in high school and college and

have managed it for the last five years, and they taught me everything about running a business," Copeland said of his bosses at the Clinton pizza restaurant.

Business is about "taking care of people and doing things the right way," Copeland said, so when he learned that the Allstate owner, Jeff Smith, planned to sell the business, he quickly decided it was a great opportunity.

His mom, Beth has already worked there for many years, and she offered to stay on and help. His sister, Sara Beth, was looking for a good

use of her recent bachelor's degree in business.

Smith gave the siblings time to become certified as agents in the insurance business, and the timing worked out well for the Copeland family to take over now, since Smith just accepted a position in the Washington D.C. area.

As for close working conditions with the family, none of them are concerned about it.

"Sara Beth and I worked together at Dempsey's for years," Copeland said. "We know what to expect from each other."

LCSO arrests 3 after traffic stop

By John Clayton
Editor

Three people were arrested Monday by Laurens County Sheriff's deputies on weapons, drug and other charges following a traffic stop Monday near Enoree.

According to reports from the LCSO, a deputy spotted a vehicle displaying a dealer tag. The deputy was familiar with the vehicle due to a previous incident and was aware that it was not purchased from a dealership. When the deputy attempted to pull over the vehicle, the driver, Michael Leon Killingsworth, allegedly failed to stop for the deputy's blue light, turning onto Ora County Park Road.

Killingsworth pulled over a short time later. Then, Killingsworth and two passengers in the vehicle attempted to flee on foot, according to the report.

While searching the area, deputies found a purse that contained a small amount of marijuana. During a search of the vehicle, deputies discov-

ered a sawed-off shotgun.

Deputies tracked down Killingsworth, 30, of Laurens and arrested him along with Andrea Summer Storey, 22, of Gray Court and Charles Michael Roberts, Jr., 32, of Laurens.

Killingsworth is charged with possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony, improper use of a dealer tag, driving under suspension (third or subsequent offense), failure to stop for a blue light (second or subsequent offense) and unlawful possession of a sawed-off shotgun or rifle.

Storey is charged with unlawful possession of a sawed-off shotgun or rifle, possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a violent felony and possession of marijuana. Roberts faces the same two weapons charges.

The three remained in the Johnson Detention Center Thursday.

items valued at more than \$2,000 after being discovered by deputies at an unoccupied residence.

Deputies discovered Riddle at the residence after observing a vehicle on the property they knew to be abandoned.

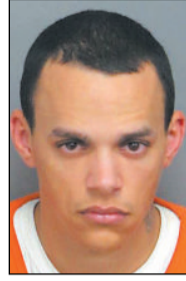
Riddle's grand larceny charges are enhanced due to his criminal history. He remained in the Johnson Detention Center Thursday. His bond was set at \$20,000.

Fire erupts in Cross Hill

A fire severely damaged a mobile home on Leamon Street Wednesday afternoon in Cross Hill.

No one was injured in the blaze. The Cross Hill Fire Department responded to the fire with support from several other units.

The American Red Cross is assisting members of the family with their needs.



Michael L. Killingsworth



Andrea S. Storey



Charles M. Roberts Jr.



Daniel C. Riddle

Grand larceny alleged on Highway 221

A Fountain Inn man is facing charges of grand larceny after being arrested on Feb. 21 on Highway 221 north of Laurens. Daniel Claton Riddle, 61, was accused of stealing a tire-changing machine and other

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Echo Theater meeting Thursday

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

A community meeting will be held in the Laurens City Council Chambers in City Hall next week to gauge community support and hear ideas for the former Echo Theater.

The meeting was announced in last week's meeting of Laurens City Council, when Mayor John Stankus asked that all council members and members of the public attend at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 7 in second floor council chambers of City Hall.

Moderated by University of South Carolina professor Jennifer Gunter, the meeting has been organized through a cooperative effort with the City of Laurens by Regan Freeman of Clinton, who hopes to see the community come forward not just to discuss potential uses and renovations of the former theater, but also healing from the two decades it served as the racially-divisive Redneck Shop. The building is at the core of the Hollywood film, Burden, which may be released later this year.

Dr. Gunter is the director of the South Carolina Collaborative on Race and Reconciliation, Freeman said. Through talks with building owner Rev. David Kennedy and other stakeholders in the community, the public meeting was planned as a way to begin conversations, "which can allow residents of Laurens to move past the insane circus which resulted when the Redneck Shop first opened in Laurens and change the narrative of the city," he said.

Freeman also said efforts are under way to begin renovation plans for the building, and a contractor has already offered to repair the roof of the deteriorating building at no charge.

"We are trying to invite all those who are invested in the Laurens community and would love to fill the council chambers with people from all walks of life," Freeman said.


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Better Health Together

GHS & Palmetto Health are now Prisma Health!

Free Pancake Day
Tuesday, March 12 • IHOP locations
Enjoy a free short stack and donate to help children at Prisma HealthSM Children's Hospital—Upstate battling critical illnesses.

Diabetes 101
Thursday, March 14 • 10-11 a.m. • Laurens County Hospital, Women's Life Center
This free class offers tips for those with diabetes including meal ideas, lifestyle changes and products to help manage the condition. No registration required. For more information, call 864-885-7654.

Life Center Indoor Mini-Triathlon
Saturday, March 16 • Prisma Health Life Center®, Greenville
Challenge yourself in this indoor mini-triathlon where participants will swim for 10 minutes, bike for 30 minutes and run for 20 minutes. Start times will be every 30 minutes beginning at 8:15 a.m. with the last group starting at 10:45 a.m. Cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. For more information, call 864-455-4035.

Plant-based Meal Planning cooking class and lunch
Monday, March 18 • Noon-1 p.m. • Prisma Health Life Center, Greenville
Learn how you can eat a healthy, plant-based diet without adding extra prep time into your daily routine. Chef Lauren Limbird will instruct participants in "batch" cooking methods using great plant-based recipes. Cost is \$10. To register, call 864-455-4231.

Dr. Buffaloe offers hours in Clinton
Leon Buffaloe Jr., MD, now sees patients Friday morning at Internal Medicine—Laurens, located at 22725 Hwy. 76 E., Suite A (third floor of Laurens County Medical Campus). He will continue to see patients at Internal Medicine—Simpsonville the rest of the week. To make an appointment at either site, call 864-522-1170.

Unless noted otherwise, registration is required for each event. To register, learn more or see a schedule of events, visit prismahealth.org/upstateevents.

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