

3rd volume of 'Discovering Laurens County' book signing set for Thursday

From Staff Reports

A drop-in and book signing is set for 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, April 25 at Holmes Photography and The Square Root Store on the Historic Square in Laurens. The event is to celebrate the publication of the third installment of Discovering Laurens County. Volume 3 of the series of historical books is called "Dramatic Changes, 1840-1890."

The book contains almost 500 pages of the county's history, including many historic pictures, maps, first-hand accounts of historic events derived from contemporary letters and journals, as well as historic and well-documented narratives dealing with the county's history.

Local authors and historians contributed to the publication

including Sarah Jane Armstrong, chairperson of the Discovering Laurens County Committee; publication editor Richard Fowler; and contributors Gene Brooks, Linda Armstrong Finley, Harold Ligon, Jack Marler, Edwin Eugene (Gene) Ott, Elizabeth H. (Bootsie) Raser, Robert Roper, Nelle Knight Lollis Rowland, Ernie Segars and Kathryn Weathers.

The book includes histories of local towns and villages, elected officials, census information and railroad development. The book also contains extensive narratives and photographs of major events of the period including the Civil War, Reconstruction and the fateful Election of 1876. There is also a large and well-documented history of the African-American community

in Laurens County, including life during slavery, after emancipation and accounts of important African-American citizens in the county.

Several of the authors/contributors to the book will attend the event on April 25 and copies of the book will be available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale of the book will ultimately be contributed to the museums currently either in operation or under development in the county.

The two earlier editions in the Discovering Laurens County series will also be available for purchase at the event. Volume 1 is titled "From Pre-History through the Colonial Period," and Volume 2 is titled "Revolution and County Growth, 1775-1840."



INNOVATION TEAM OF THE YEAR — The PTC Area Commission on March 19 presented team members, from left, Tara Gonce, Area Commission Vice Chair Richard Cain, Tamatha Sells, Ann Piggott, PTC President Ray Brooks, Karla Gilliam, Sharon Saxon, Russell Martin, Lynn Slater, and Danny Stovall with the 2019 Innovation Team of the Year Award.

PTC quality enhancement team recognized for innovative work

Some students contemplating a health care major at Piedmont Technical College (PTC) can risk unnecessarily wasting time taking classes that don't serve them without a clear focus on their eventual destination. For this reason, a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Team comprised of faculty, staff and selected students developed the CARE Planning Center to provide customized advising for pre-program health care majors who are beginning their requisite basic coursework. During its first semester last fall, the Center served 178 students, of whom 156 emerged with a solid degree plan — a CAREplan. Because of this success, the PTC Area Commission has recognized the QEP Team as its Innovation Team of the Year for 2019.

QEP Co-Chair Carol Paguntalan said that one of the most significant contributions the CARE Planning Center offers the college is its highly visible, centralized location, which allows students to quickly identify their advisors and meet

with them in a timely manner.

Students interested in health care have myriad choices for specialization. CAREplan advisors can provide the best, most up-to-date information for students making critical decisions and ensure that they fully understand program demands and requirements. Through the CAREplan, students in the pre-program phase of health care programs can follow an individually tailored, guided pathway. Those who are tentative about their concentration take a health care careers course early on to better understand the field. Then they work continually during their time at PTC with their CAREplan advisors to ensure that their education plan and career goals remain compatible. "Ideally, health care and nursing students will have a concrete

Guided Pathway plan in place before the end of their first semester," Paguntalan said. "One of the QEP team's most important goals was to facilitate students in making any changes in their major earlier, before they were well into their first year of study. They can stay on the same generalized health care path, taking courses common to all health majors for as long as they can, until they need to step off into more specialized coursework."

"The CAREplan will save students time while improving and streamlining their college experience. It also will strengthen PTC's overall advising platform," said Dr. Jack Bagwell, vice president for student affairs. "With the CAREplan working as it is designed, students can bypass unnecessary setbacks on the path to their degrees."

Why should a veteran pay for medicare?

Dear Rusty: I am a Veteran and all my Medical needs are covered by the VA. Why should I be paying for Medicare out of my monthly social security check? Signed: Inquiring Veteran

Dear Inquiring Veteran: Well, it depends upon how comfortable you are that the VA will be able to provide all the medical services you may ever need, emergency or otherwise, for the rest of your life. I, too, am a veteran and receive some of my care — such as wellness exams, blood tests, some prescription drugs, and immunizations — from the VA, but I also have Medicare to cover other services which are not typically available on an immediate basis from the VA. The point is, there will almost surely be times when you won't be able to rely on the VA for needed immediate care or certain specialized services from specific medical experts, and if you don't have Medicare you may find yourself facing some very large medical expenses for which you will be personally responsible. That's where Medicare will help because nearly every medical facility and healthcare service in the country accepts patients with Medicare. And being immediately accepted as a Medicare patient anywhere in the country, anytime of day or night must certainly have some value for you. After all, none of us know what our health future will be.

Since you're now collecting Social Security I assume you're already enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B, and you're questioning why you should continue to pay the Part B premium. Medicare Part B is coverage for doctors and other outpatient

services, while Medicare Part A provides hospitalization coverage. There's a premium for Part B (\$135.50/month in 2019), but Part A is free if you also qualify for Social Security. And, by the way, you must have Medicare Part A to collect Social Security after you're 65. For information, VA coverage for drugs is considered "creditable" as an alternative to Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. But other VA healthcare coverage is not a "creditable" alternative to Part B by Medicare's standards, so it won't count for avoiding a late enrollment penalty if you drop Part B now and decide afterwards to re-enroll.

Unless you have other "creditable" healthcare coverage from your or your spouse's employer after dropping Part B, re-enrolling later will result in you being assessed a late enrollment penalty of 10 percent on top of the Part B premium amount, recurring every year, for each full year you go without Part B coverage. That penalty doesn't go away, and it will go up as the Medicare Part B premium increases (which it does from time to time).

Additionally, you will be restricted when you can later re-enroll and when your coverage

will start again. For clarity, if you have other "creditable" (not VA) coverage you can drop Part B, save the premium, and re-enroll in Part B again later without penalty (when your other "creditable" coverage ends). But if you don't, you may find your healthcare options limited and you'll incur penalties for re-enrolling in Part B later.

Obviously the choice is yours to make, but I suggest you consider the above points carefully when making your decision about whether to drop Medicare Part B and rely only on the VA only for your healthcare coverage. That's not to take anything away from the excellent healthcare services offered by the VA, but only to make sure you're aware of the risks associated with dropping Medicare Part B.

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Garden Club holds meeting at Verdins Too

The March meeting of the Ann Pamela Cunningham Garden Club was held at Verdins Too just off the courthouse square.

Hostesses were Patty Craine and Ann Miller. There were 11 members and two guests in attendance.

Kim Verdin gave a delightful program on the history of the garden center and the Verdins family.

We learned that the garden product, "Milorganite," is an organic nitrogen fertilizer and can be used on lawns, trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, roses and vegetables. And the best news — deer don't like it! "Stout Ollie" compost is a great soil conditioner and will not burn the roots of newly planted plants.

Verdins Too carries a huge variety of plants, shrubs and trees. Plus - some very interesting objects for the gardener who likes to add to the garden deco! Tables and chairs, benches, decorative pots and water fountains add color and sounds to the garden. Everyone who loves gardening should pay a visit to Verdins Too. This shop is a great addition to our Historic Square.

Doris Taylor gave a report on the recent East Piedmont District meeting of the Garden Club of South Carolina.

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