

# The Extra

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Photo by Judith Brown

**PROTOTYPE** — With its hinged heel design, Clinton High School senior engineering design and development students Calleigh Jacks, Anna Claire Pitts and Lexi LaGroon took the engineering design and development award Tuesday afternoon in the second annual competition between the EDD class at Laurens District High and CHS.

## Cross-county engineering students face off in second annual EDD showcase

By Judith Brown  
Staff Writer

Fashion, form and function came together for the win as an all-female team of engineers took an innovative design and development award back to Clinton High School this week after the second annual Laurens County Engineering Design and Development Innovation Challenge and Showcase.

Held Tuesday afternoon at the Higher Education Center in Clinton, the afternoon event brought together eight teams of Project Lead The Way students from both Laurens District and Clinton high schools. Each team had to pinpoint a problem and come up with an innovative design to solve it. The winning "Hinged Heel" team created a prototype shoe with a heel that can fold in as a comfortable flat for work or a casual look, or open the heel for a professional or evening look.

"This is definitely a prototype. No one would expect you to wear this," said Lexi LaGroon, who researched and worked on the project with Calleigh Jacks and Anna Claire Pitts, who demonstrated how to remove a pin and turn the heel into a flat, or open the heel and use the same pin to stabilize it. The fabric on the single shoe lacked finishing touches, but it was wearable. It was modeled by one of the team members in a commercial video the team prepared.

"There are shoes with removable heels but this is the only one where the heel folds up," LaGroon said.

Taught by John Michael Hammond at CHS and Rob Sheffield at LDHS, the Project Lead The Way classes developed innovative designs as their senior capstone projects.

Among the designs created by other teams was a device that cleared dust from an overheating PS4; an improvement on

(Continued on page 2)

## 'Meth cook' gets third strike, 17 years

By John Clayton

Editor

It took a jury less than an hour to convict a Laurens man of manufacturing methamphetamines Tuesday during 8th Circuit General Sessions Court at the Laurens County Hillcrest Judicial Complex.

Ronald Jeffrey Eaton, 52, was found guilty of manufacturing methamphetamines (third offense) and possession of methamphetamines following a two-day trial.

Circuit Judge Alison Renee Lee sentenced Eaton to 17 years in prison on the manufacturing charge and another 10 years on the possession charge. The two sentenced are to be served concurrently.

Eaton has a long criminal history in Laurens County, dating back to 1989 according to court records.

"Drug addiction continues to plague our society in the new millennium," 8th Circuit Solicitor David Stumbo said following the trial. "While we recognize that it is only part of the solution, (Laurens County) Sheriff (Don) Reynolds and I are pleased to see a lifelong meth cook and dealer like Ronnie Eaton sent to prison for a long time to come, and we will continue our commitment to stopping anyone pushing destructive drugs in our community."

Eaton was arrested and booked into the Johnson Detention Center on March 26, 2018 by the Laurens County Sheriff's Office following an investigation into a meth-cooking operation on Bobcat Drive in Laurens. A camper belonging to Eaton abruptly moved from Bobcat Drive, and a tip later helped investigators locate the camper again on Boyd Road.

LCISO obtained a search warrant after determining that Eaton did not report his change in address to his probation agent. They discovered a "broken down, one-pot cooking operation" inside the camper and determined Eaton had been manufacturing meth since his release from prison on a previous manufacturing charge.



Ronald J. Eaton

(Continued on page 2)

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Clinton, South Carolina

*A Very Special Thank You to the City of Clinton Employees Who Worked Hard to Make This Year's Rhythm on the Rails a Huge Success!*

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Ashley Rochester

**TEAM LEADERS**  
Kevin Hawkins, Bobby Thomas, Jennifer Metz, Tim Douglas, Crystal Roberts

**CITY STAFF**

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