



PARK PLACE — Laurens County Trails Association board member Bob Bryant, center, speaks with some of the visitors and fellow trails association leaders at the LCTA's June 1 Trails Day event at Lake Rabon Park. With last weekend's slightly cooler temperatures, the event was well attended by both hikers and kayakers.

LCTA seeks to build on Trails Day success

By Judith Brown
Staff Writer

In recognition of the June 1 National Trails Day, the Laurens County Trails Association hosted Laurens County Trails Day Celebration which brought in dozens of families and outdoor enthusiasts last Saturday to take advantage of Lake Rabon Park's early summer water activities and trails.

"There were self-directed and guided trails for attendees, canoeing and paddle boarding, barbecue and environmental education programs for those who attended," said LCTA board member Jamie Adair. "Families were out kayaking and we had great participation."

LCTA has been actively working with Laurens County Parks and Recreation Department to expand the public's knowledge of the many outdoor activities already available to the county's residents.

In an interview last month, LCTA executive director Bud Marchant noted that already this spring he'd seen heavy activity at Boyds Mill, Tumbling Shoals and other county parks. Parks and Recreation Director Andy Howard said the walking trails at the Laurens County Park are also bringing in large numbers of walkers.

Their hope is to eventually expand the hiking options by connecting to the Greenville Swamp Rabbit Trail, which begins in Travelers Rest and continues into part of Fountain Inn, and bring that into Laurens County, possibly connecting it to the Palmetto Trail, which runs through the eastern-most tip of Laurens County.

With its emphasis on wellness and exercise, Prisma Health is the title sponsor of the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville County and it has been actively working and providing support and funding toward the trail's

expansion into Laurens County. "We've got something that Greenville doesn't have," Howard said, "and that's the natural space. That's what people are looking for." To find out more about the work

and activities of the LCTA, see its website, www.lctrails.org, or email executive director Bud Marchant at bmarchant72@gmail.com. Editor John Clayton contributed to this story.

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Campbell selected as LCSD 55 District Teacher of the Year

Savannah Campbell, a Primary Montessori teacher from Laurens Elementary School, was named Laurens County School District 55's 2019 District Teacher of the Year. The announcement was made at the annual District Recognition Banquet at The Ridge on Thursday, May 30. Savannah "is the complete package; work ethic, devotion to her students, her commitment to learning and growing as a teacher, her desire to teach students who are new learners," said Laurens Elementary School Principal Randy Dendy. "When you are in her classroom, you can see the connection she has with students."



Savannah Campbell

Campbell, a Lander University graduate, has Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education and Primary Montessori Certification. This year Campbell also received the honor of Distinguished Literacy Teacher for Laurens Elementary School. Campbell said, "I try to meet the student where they are. I want to build their confidence in areas where they are struggling, so they

can be successful in future learning. I follow the child and build upon their skills and abilities when they are ready. In my classroom, we not only learn academics, but I promote and foster social-emotional skills as well. I care for my students and their families and build positive relationships for a successful school year. A daily goal that I have is to ensure that each student realizes that they

play a critical role in our classroom community."

Every year, each school in the District selects their own "Teacher of the Year," and the school winners are eligible for the District Teacher of the Year Award, which is announced at the annual District Recognition Banquet. The District Recognition Banquet also honors all LCSD 55 Support Staff of the Year, employees with significant years of service, and retirees.

The Laurens County Human Resource Department is pleased to recognize all of the hard working teachers of the year who go above and beyond for LCSD 55 students and the District. "It is apparent to me that Savannah Campbell is a teacher who walks into her classroom every day with her focus in precisely the right place: what do these students in front of me need to learn, and how can I help them learn it?" said Superintendent Dr. Stephen G. Peters. "I am honored to recognize all of our Teachers of the Year as they are the life changers we need in our district."

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Gov. Henry McMaster

— McMaster —

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areas, will affect the team's connections to the Upstate is unclear. The Panthers have held their preseason camps in Spartanburg on the campus of Wofford College for more than a decade.

McMaster praised the NFL deal as another big step for South Carolina. The state department of commerce estimates the facility to bring 5,700 jobs and \$3.8 billion in related economic impact to York County and the state, though some economists have reportedly expressed doubt in those numbers.

"There's no power in small ideas, none," McMaster said. "You have to think big."

(See Wednesday's edition of *The Laurens County Advertiser* for more on Gov. McMaster's visit to Laurens.)

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