



LDHS, CHS seniors walk the walk

The Class of 2019 from Laurens District High School and Clinton High School celebrated graduation Wednesday night on their respective campuses.

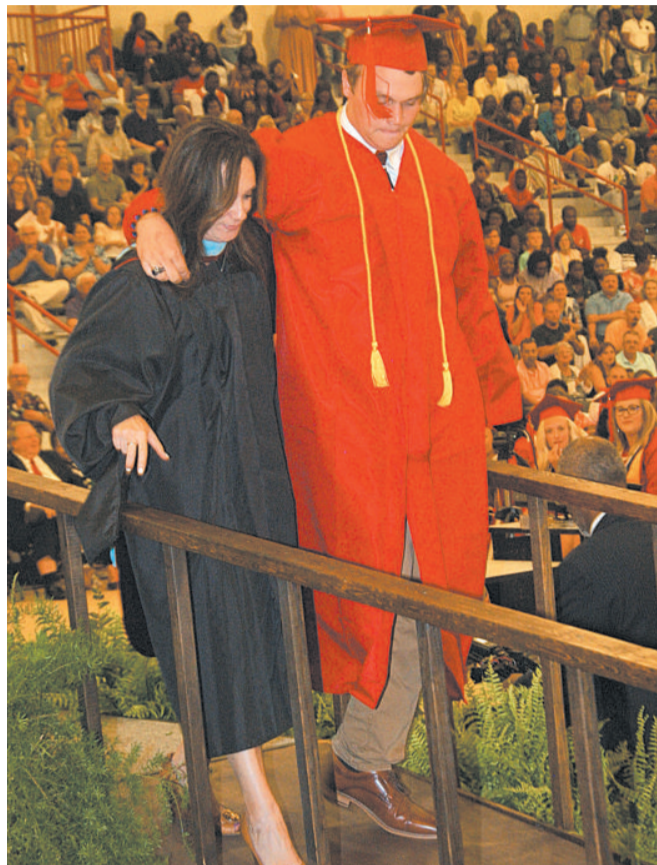
Nearly 600 graduates accepted their diplomas, making the momentous walk across the stage in front of family, friends and classmates.

Graduation at LDHS marked the first one presided over by Tina Faulkner as principal, while Maureen Tiller took part in her final graduation ceremony at Clinton High. Tiller is taking over as principal of the new Fountain Inn High School.

Laurens Academy and Lighthouse Christian Academy held their graduation ceremonies on earlier dates.

The Advertiser wishes all the members of the Class of '19 a bright and successful future.

For more photos from Wednesday night's graduation ceremonies, see page 8.



LEAN ON ME — Clinton High Principal Maureen Tiller, left, helps Zachary Witmer down a ramp after Witmer picked up his diploma Wednesday night. Witmer suffered a leg injury earlier and was on crutches, but determined to walk across the stage.



DONE DEAL — Laurens District High 55 graduate Tamela Marie Avery looks to her family in the stands as she celebrates with her diploma Wednesday night during graduation ceremonies.

McMaster addresses education, Panthers

By John Clayton
Editor

South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster lauded South Carolinians for the amiability and work ethic that he says helps attract industry and businesses to the state, but also said its secondary education system needs significant improvements.

"To be weak in education is not good," said McMaster, speaking Thursday at the Rotary Club of Laurens regular meeting. "But to recognize it and not do something about it is disas-

trous."

McMaster noted a \$10 million investment in providing School Resource Officers for every school in the state and additional funds to be spent on raising teacher salaries 5% to bring them up to the Southeast average. He said he also wants to see mental health professionals available to each public school in the state.

"If we can fix (education) and keep taxes low and regulations out, we'll be in good shape," he said. "We have to help our schools in rural areas. We have a lot of problems there."

McMaster outlined the Rural School District Economic Development Grant Closing Fund, an incentive-based program to help provide infrastructure for education in rural areas across the state.

"If there's no water and sewer and if the school building is raggedy, (industry and their employees) aren't coming," he said.

McMaster also touted a \$115 million incentives bill he signed Wednesday will bring the NFL's Carolina Panthers headquarters from Charlotte across the state line to Rock Hill.

"We build things here. We build airplanes. We build automobiles, and as of yesterday, we'll be building football teams," he said.

In order for the Panthers to be eligible for the tax incentives built into the agreement, state law that will allow the team to claim the players as employees — like any other industry — had to be changed.

How the \$200 million facility, which McMaster said will include a state-of-the-art sports medicine center, a convention center, and multiple practice

(continued on page 2)

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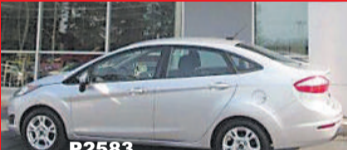
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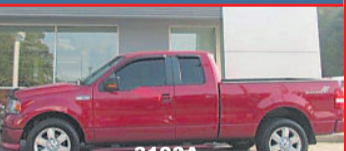
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