

- QT -

(Continued from page 1)

Eventually QT worked out an agreement with a private landowner on Highway 72 before the overpass, on U.S. Hwy. 72 E., across from the Citgo, Fatz and Zaxby's.

The location is closer to downtown but still well within the city limits, McLean said, so the tax revenue will greatly benefit the city.

"This has been going on a long time, and eventually QT does what QT wants," he said, adding that the business was willing to wait until a suitable property was available at that interchange, and it turned out to be a private property owner. "They have been surveying but I'm not sure of their timeframe."

Being a larger fuel center will benefit the truckers traveling along I-26 in 18-wheel-



**VALUABLE PROPERTY** — QuikTrip had coveted land currently used as a work and storage spaced by the South Carolina Department of Transportation just off of Exit 54 on I-26. QT will instead build at Exit 54 on the eastbound side of the highway.

ers, McLean said, but also Clinton residents with larger trailers and vehicles. He said he has a very long trailer and hasn't been able to fill up at any of the service stations in the city.

In the meantime, McLean

said he has still been looking for people to contact that might influence the SCDOT to move its work area from the interchange and allow development there across the interstate.

"By the state being there

everybody loses money," McLean said. "It's a valuable piece of property that would be generating money for Clinton and for the state. I have voiced my opinion to city and county councils and to the governor."

**Free summer music, family events in Laurens**

**By Judith Brown**  
Staff Writer

A number of summer music and family friendly events will be held next weekend in Laurens, beginning with the Shag Doctorz' beach music concert and dancing Friday, June 28, for the June Finally Friday!, sponsored by Main Street Laurens. The Sweet Tea Soiree begins at 6 p.m., and the music and dancing on the Downtown Square begins at 7 p.m.

That same night the City of Laurens is holding its first Free Family Movie Night, playing

Dumbo at the Little River Amphitheater, 420 Gordon Street, Laurens. The film will begin at dark, about 8:45 p.m.

The City of Laurens will also offer a free concert, again at the amphitheater, Saturday night, June 29 when A Night Affair Band comes to play at 7:30 p.m. The Greenville-based band plays a variety of southern soul, R&B and Rock.

The following week on Wednesday, July 3, the city will present its annual Freedom Festival at the Little River Amphitheater.

- PILOT -

(Continued from page 1)

It's a heady market. "Once Icon really starts going into full production, that price will go down," Butler said. "Right now, it's a selective group of buyers, but I wanted to be a part of that action and make Icon successful."

A 2004 Federal Aviation Administration rule change allowing a category for sport aircraft led to the development of the Icon A5. Hawkins started Icon two years later.

Butler said he sees personal aircraft like the sleek A5, which has foldable wings and a lightweight body that can be easily trailered. Butler also said he wants to see the company's future success to spill over into the region. Butler

moved to Greenwood in 1986, learning to fly out of the Greenwood County Airport and piloting a six-seat Beechcraft Bonanza airplane soon thereafter.

"I like to see opportunities like this that promote the area," Butler said. "This little thing is so beautiful, and when you fly it, you get noticed. ... This airplane is going to be a real bonus for Lake Greenwood, and the beauty of it is that includes Laurens, Greenwood and Newberry."

For Butler, the first-of-its-kind A5 training facility is part of a mission to fuel an old passion for aviation and his belief in a relatively new airplane.

"I want to see the company really grow and take off," he said. Pun intended.

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**So long, Mister Sun: Advertiser Extra to cease publication**

**By John Clayton**  
Editor

In one week and almost 37 years to the date that the publication now known as *The Advertiser Extra* debuted, it will end its publication run in Laurens County.

The free publication has been distributed to homes countywide each week since its debut as *Mister Sun* on July 3, 1982. The final issue of *The Extra* will be published on June 29.

Advertiser Co-Publisher Marc Brown said the move to cease publication of *The Extra* comes after much deliberation between himself and brother and Co-Publisher James Brown.

"We simply no longer generate the advertising revenue to cover the increasing costs of printing and distributing *The Extra*," Marc Brown said. "We're very proud of *The Extra* and the fact that our staff brought news, advertisers and community happenings free to county residents for nearly four decades."

The idea to start a "Total Market Coverage" publication in the county stemmed from a chance meeting former Advertiser Publisher W.J. "Jim" Brown had with a Kentucky-based newspaper publisher when son James was graduating from college.

"He urged dad to start the TMC publication," James Brown

recalled. "A competitor had started a publication in his market that hurt his newspaper financially, and he told dad not to let that happen in Laurens."

Soon thereafter, *Mister Sun* with the motto, "Shining on Every Home In Laurens County," was born.

But unlike other TMC publications, *Mister Sun* was not solely a vehicle for advertising. From its inception it included community features and happenings.

In November of 1987, *Mister Sun* was rebranded as *The Advertiser Extra*. The first few issues added "with *Mister Sun*" to the masthead.

*The Extra* has included those same local features over the years, but has broadened its scope with the addition of sports and harder news, including coverage of court trials, crime and local government.

"We're sad to see *The Extra* end its nearly 40-year run," James Brown said. "But we believe we can take those resources and make *The Advertiser* better each week. We won first place in our division for General Excellence from the South Carolina Press Association this year, and we believe we can continue to excel in our coverage of Laurens County with the weekly newspaper and special sections, as well as on our website, laurenscountyadvertiser.net."

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