

Elaine Klein joins the award-winning travel agency company

McCORMICK - Elaine Klein announced that she has joined Cruise Planners, an American Express Travel Representative, the nation's largest home-based travel agent franchise network in the industry. Affiliation means Klein now offers travelers exclusive pricing on a wide range of cruise and destination romance packages and private cruise sales, as well as cabin upgrades and special amenities, such as shore excursions, discounted fares, travel gifts and more. As a Cruise Planners travel advisor, Klein also provides specialized land vacation and tour packages to the most sought-after destinations around the world.

"Everyone wants to start traveling again, and it's more important now than ever to use a trusted travel specialist to help get the most value out of a vacation," Klein said. "As a Cruise Planners travel expert, I take the stress and hassle out of planning a vacation for my clients. Through the resources available to me, I am able to make educated recommendations based on safety, value, destination, group size and seasonality, among other things to customize the best vacation possible. Since Cruise Planners has achieved top-producer status with every major cruise line and with many major travel partners, I am able to provide my customers with the best value along with my expertise and personalized service."

The cruising trend has continued to evolve, and cruisers today are more adventurous. There's also been a surge of multi-generational cruisers - families who take their cruise vacations together. Many travelers are experiencing culturally immersive European river cruises, which is increasingly popular for savvy travelers. No matter the cruise line or destination, cruises offer a satisfying, convenient and value-oriented way to travel.

Many travelers are also opting to go on land-based vacations, enjoy all-inclusive resort stays, explore foreign countries via a guided tour and experience high-adventure trips around the world.

"As a Cruise Planners franchise, I sell complete vacation packages from exotic getaways to romantic retreats and culturally-immersive European experiences to customized African safaris and, of course, cruises," Klein said. "Some people want to go on a cruise one year and then a land-based vacation the next - I offer them a one-stop-shop with a personalized touch."

As an American Express Travel Services Representative agency, Cruise Planners offers special programs for both American Express card holders and non-card holders, offering even more added value to vacationers.

Cruise Planners, an independently owned and operated home-based franchise, is part of the American Express Travel Representative network and the nation's largest home-based travel agent franchise company in the travel industry. Cruise Planners' travel professionals independently book amazing vacation and travel experiences for their clients around the world. Cruise Planners franchise owner Elaine Klein is based in McCormick and is a Chamber member who specializes in Land and Cruise Travel. For more information, please visit Elaine Klein at <https://apluscruiseandtravel.com> or call 864-602-0865.

SLV Men's Golf Association Results

By Ken Bastow

The Savannah Lakes Men's Golf Association results for Thursday, Feb. 17, are as follows:

Event: Valentine's tournament. Best two balls of four.

First place, 19 under par: Denice Uitto, Paul Westmoreland, Sue Slagle and Jim Slagle.

Second place, 19 under par: Roger Carter, Tom Knowlson, Tom Cullen and Kris Adden.

Third place, 19 under par: Michael Hunter, Harry Hafer, Karl Nilson and Jennifer Hunter.

Fourth place, 18 under par: Bill Coulthart, Susan Tempest, Gene Graziano and Terry Nesmith.

Fifth place, 18 under par: Matt Weinhardt, Dawn Tanger, Vicki Cyr and Sue Wurtzbacher.



Brittany Callaham

Chiefs track and field athletes preparing for March 7 meet

By Alicia Harrison

The McCormick High School track and field season begins at home, 5 p.m., Monday, March 7.

Last year, the team had 33 athletes. Twelve went to the state track meet, and Omar Key won the 200 meters.

Head Coach Brittany Callaham and her assistant coach Leroy Collier, made sure the team was conditioned to be ready for this season.

"We set targets at the beginning of the season, and the students worked toward that target," Callaham said. "In the offseason, we work on conditioning and core, which will help at the end of the season."

With 20 athletes returning, Callaham expects seniors and juniors to step up. "There are anywhere from 20-25 athletes this year. We're having to rebuild with the younger athletes."

These student-athletes have the opportunity to attend study hall for help with their courses.

"The coaches will help with homework if need be. At the end of the day, we want students to be better," Callaham stated.

The addition of the recently modified track has improved athlete performance.

"Before, we had to practice in the parking lot and guess measurements," Callaham explained. "Now, we get to practice as if we're at a track meet, which I feel has better prepared the athletes for when we leave our facilities."

The coaches are learning as well. "I've learned not to put all my eggs in one basket," Callaham said. "Last year, I had a runner on the relay team who I depended on to improve its time. When he got hurt, I put another athlete in his place, and the time of the relay team got better."

"At the end of the day, student-athletes are students first. The goal for track and field is to participate with heart and give 110 percent. We don't expect any less from you than the day before," said Callaham.

Aliene Humphries speaks at Long Cane Chapter DAR meeting

The Long Cane Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, met on Feb. 17, at the McCormick County Library.

The guest speaker was Aliene Humphries. Humphries was born in Spartanburg. She was a graduate of Columbia College with degrees in Special Education and Public Speaking/Drama. She worked at the S.C. Department of Education and also taught students with special needs. After retiring from the "formal" education system, Aliene continued her passion as an educator by promoting lifelong learning.

She authored her first book in 2010, "The Legacy of a Common Civil War Soldier." This book is based on the letters written by her great-grandfather, Private Thomas Marion Shields during 1861-1865.

Presently, she is promoting "The Importance of South Carolina in the American Revolution." The book includes 63 sites, plus the new Revolutionary War Visitor Center (in Camden). These sites deserve to be visited, promoted, preserved and interpreted for us to appreciate. She is hoping to bring more awareness of the important role South Carolina played in helping the 13 colonies become the United States of America, independent from England.

Aliene is a proud, lifelong South Carolinian.



Pictured from left to right are Mary Smith, Aliene Humphries and Paula Palaima.

Singing Valentines benefit Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries



The Huguenotes present a check to the Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries. Pictured from left to right are the Huguenotes - Gary Knight, bass; Roy Phillips, baritone and Bob Osterman, lead - and Merry Beth Moore and Whitney Newby of Connie Maxwell. Not present is Huguenotes tenor Bill Updegraff.

The Huguenotes Barbershop Quartet of Savannah Lakes Village delivered singing Valentines in the Greenwood and McCormick county communities to raise money for the Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries. Besides having a lot of fun, spreading Valentine's Day cheer, serenading people with love songs and presenting every recipient with a gorgeous rose bouquet (guys received chocolate roses), the Quartet raised \$2,300 in donations from generous donors.

Special thanks go out to the Food Lion store in McCormick for the donation of the roses and Deason's Florists in Abbeville for the gypsophilia and leatherleaf, all of which allowed Cathy Osterman of Savannah Lakes to create the lovely bouquets. Thanks also to the *McCormick Messenger* and SLV's *Shorelines* magazine for the pre-Valentine's Day publicity for the event.

Over the years, the Huguenotes Quartet has had a "Singing Valentines Delivered" tradition regarding how many roses are included in a recipient's rose bouquet. For each "repeat" year, another rose is added to that year's bouquet. Larry and Marcia Tarbet have supported the annual Children's Home initiative for so long that Marcia receives a dozen roses each year.



Larry and Marcia Tarbet

Delta Dental of South Carolina invites schools to access free virtual Land Of Smiles® program for kids

COLUMBIA - February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and Delta Dental of South Carolina is reminding area elementary schools about the availability of its free virtual Land of Smiles® program, which teaches good dental health habits to tens of thousands of South Carolina grade-school children each year. Teachers, school nurses and principals are encouraged to visit www.LandofSmilesProgram.org and click on the state of South Carolina to request access to the online program on a date and time that works for their students.

The virtual Land of Smiles® program - available in a 15- or 30-minute video format - is an engaging, interactive experience for students, as they learn about taking care of their growing smiles, the best foods for healthy teeth and why it is important to visit the dentist.

Delta Dental of South Carolina also offers free "smile bags" to schools for students who participate in the program. Each bag includes a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss to help students practice the good dental health habits they learn.

The Land of Smiles® program also includes a brand new, downloadable program curriculum that corresponds with the virtual experience. Developed with input from teachers and school nurses, while adhering to state oral health education standards, the curriculum provides lessons and activities to further educate students in grades K-3 about good oral health practices.

Delta Dental of South Carolina launched its innovative virtual program in September 2020. Since then, more than 97,000 students from 260 schools in 42 South Carolina counties have participated in the age-appropriate online program either in the classroom or through partial or full-time virtual learning. Those interested in learning more or scheduling the program in South Carolina can visit www.LandofSmilesProgram.org.

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