

Dreamliners bolster

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market share.

South Carolina tire manufacturers, including Goodyear and Michelin, notched a 7% year-over-year increase in exports.

Several of the port's top export commodities, however, saw little or no growth last year or reported declines.

Exports of chemicals, such as plastic pellets that can be used in thousands of consumer products, were down 8.5%, according to Census Bureau data. Electrical equipment saw a 3% decline, while food exports were off by 6.4%.

"Exports out of the U.S. have been challenged recently, especially out of the South Atlantic, where

there's a lot of forest products and lower-margin exports that have been hit by tariffs," said Micah Mallace, president and CEO of the S.C. State Ports Authority, which owns and operates the Port of Charleston.

Mallace said his key goal is to increase cargo moving through the port.

To that end, he is looking for more opportunities like a recent deal with Charleston-based Harbor Logistics to open a soybean transloading facility that will send the state's top agricultural product to foreign markets.

"We're being really intentional about finding those, not just the headline opportunities, but digging deeper to where there is an unexpected opportunity we can deliver on," he said. "We are

looking for new export markets and commodities where there is potential growth due to either trade agreements or commodities not affected as much by tariffs."

Mallace said the shipping lines that call on the port are looking for more exported goods to help balance the increase in imports the state has seen.

"They want to see plenty of imports matched with plenty of exports," he said.

South Carolina exports reached 198 countries and territories.

Germany maintained its status as the state's leading export partner, with \$5.1 billion in goods going to that country. That represents a 3.5% year-over-year increase. Mexico and Canada were South Carolina's next-biggest export customers.

News From Pine Tree Hill



First graders from Pine Tree Hill have been hard at work in the art room, crafting their very own ceramic pinch pots from start to finish. Using their hands to carefully shape the clay, students explored the art of pottery before adding vibrant glazes to make each piece unique. To bring their creations to life, they planted succulents inside—combining creativity with a touch of nature.



This hands-on project not only showcased their artistic talents but also gave students a sense of pride in their work. A big thank you to our fantastic art teacher, Kara Laster, for inspiring creativity and helping our young artists grow—just like their plants!

Beautiful pinch pots created by Pine Tree Hill first graders

Students Liam Potter, Zaniya Williams, Kayden Bowers and Parker Truesdale show off their pinch pots

LIBRARY EVENTS

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Thursday, April 9
6 PM – 6:45 PM in Bethune
Family Yoga: Join certified Yoga instructor Ms. Charlotte to enjoy a gentle yoga for all ages and skill levels.
Friday, April 10
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM in Camden
Little Explorers' Club: Join us for outdoor fun with an obstacle course, a beach ball throw, walk the line and more gross motor activities. If weather prohibits, we'll have it inside. Water provided.
Saturday, April 11
10 AM – 1 PM in Camden
Mango Languages Drop-In: Scottish-Gaelic: Drop by the Camden Branch and learn how to learn a language! Interested in learning the Scottish-Gaelic Language? We have an app for that! Your library provides Mango Languages with over 70 world languages and more than 20 English courses. Carry the lessons with you via the app to learn on the go. No sign up required, just stop by.
Saturday, April 11
10 AM – 2 PM in Bethune
Bethune D&D: Join us for the revival of the Bethune D&D club! We're moving to a bi-weekly schedule. Ages 13 to adult are welcome to join us for an adventure no matter your experience with the game.
Saturday, April 11
10 AM – 12 PM in Elgin
SaturYAY – One Creepy Bunny! Join us to enjoy Jasper Rabbit's creepy tales Creepy Carrots & Creepy Pair of Underwear and get your own Jasper Rabbit ears, keychain, and pencil while supplies last! (Stories will be read at 10 AM and 11 AM) For ages 10 and under.
Monday, April 13
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM in Camden
Soil Structure Class: Jasmine Leavitt will share her expertise in soil structure. You will learn about soil pH, soil building, composting, and more. Please call 803-425-1508 to sign up for this informative session. For ages 18+
Tuesday, April 14
9 AM – 6 PM in Elgin

Spring Take-and-Make: Swing by and pick up a take-and-make kit for your child to make a fun spring craft at home!
Tuesday, April 14
10:30 AM – 11 AM in Bethune
Children's Storytime: Bring your child to the Bethune library for stories, songs, and more with Youth Librarian Lauren Decker! For ages 0-5.
Tuesday, April 14
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM in Camden
Be a Smart Voter in SC: Learn how to confidently participate in SC elections with clear, trusted info from SC Votes:
• Know where & when to vote — find your polling place, election dates, and sample ballot so you're prepared before you arrive.
• Understand what's on your ballot — learn how to research candidates and referendums before you cast your vote.
• See how voting works — we'll explain how votes are collected, verified, and kept secure so you can vote with confidence.
• Get to know voting machines — what they look like, how they're operated and secured, and how to use them on Election Day.
Tuesday, April 14
4 PM – 6 PM in Elgin
BLOX: Kids and teens of all ages can join us at the Elgin library to build with a variety of bricks and blocks. Enjoy Legos, K'nex, Lincoln Logs, Snap Circuits, wooden blocks, and more.
Wednesday, April 15
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM in Bethune
Dementia Information Table: Dementia Care Specialist, Chermiece Kelley, will be joining us for coffee. She will be available to answer any questions patrons may have regarding dementia, and caring for loved ones with dementia.
Wednesday, April 15
5 PM – 7 PM in Elgin
Adult Crafting: Blackout Poetry: Join us to craft your own blackout poetry, where you'll take existing text and "blackout" the majority of the page to leave only a poem created visible. Come drop-in and create with us! For ages 18+
Thursday, April 16
4 PM – 5:30 PM in Camden
KCL Chess Club: Drop in for a chess club for all ages and skill levels! If you don't know how to play, we offer free

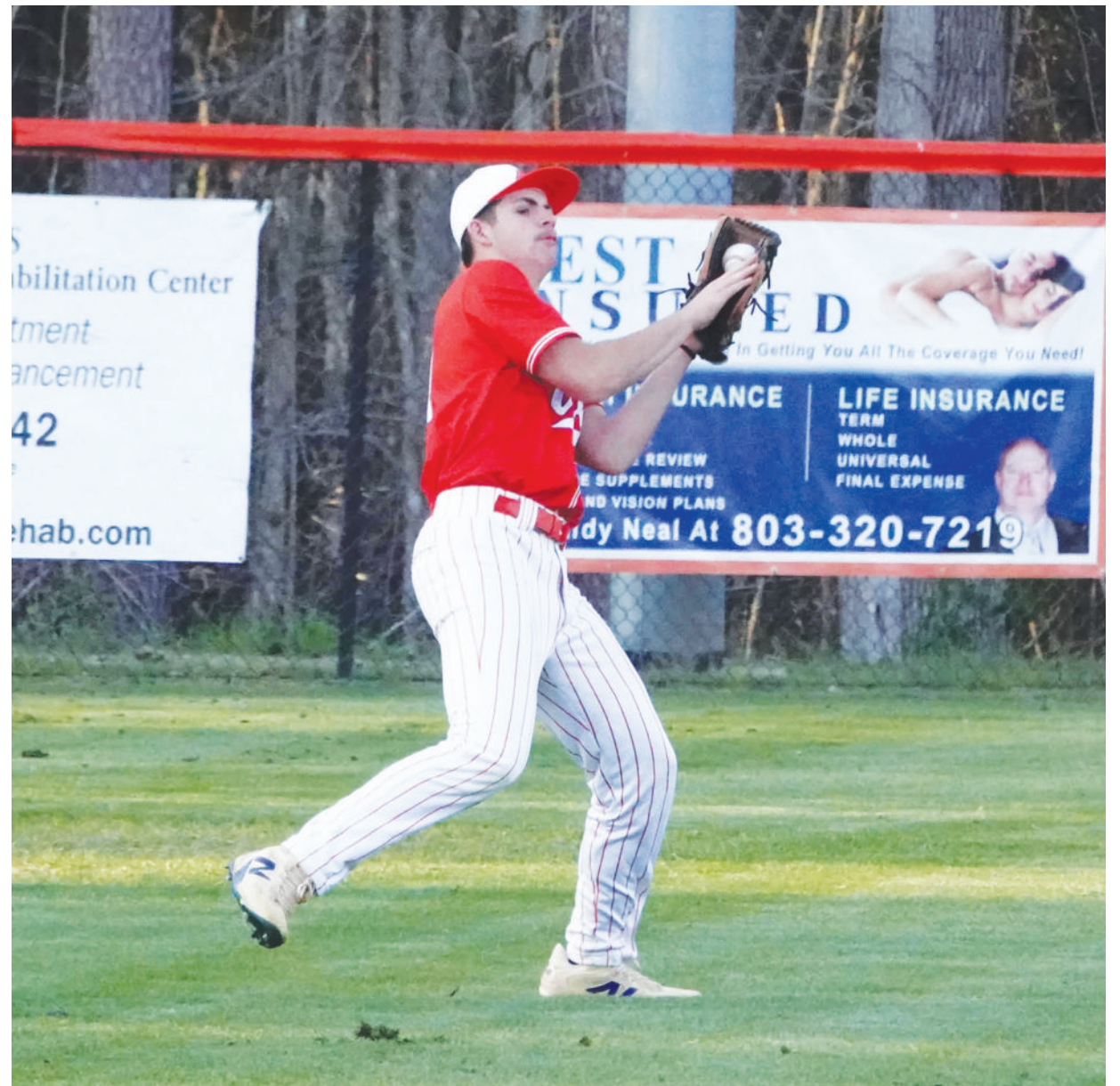
lessons for ages 8 to adult. In each session, we'll also discuss tactics for your chess game.
Thursday, April 16
4 PM – 6 PM in Elgin
#hangout: Teens ages 12-17 can join other teens at the library for fun, games, conversation and crafts.
Thursday, April 16
5 PM – 6 PM in Bethune
Family Game Night: Join us at the Bethune library to play games with your family! For all ages. Games provided or bring your own!
Friday, April 17*
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM in Camden
Homeschoolers Combined: Join Ms. Lauren for a special combined edition of Whiz Kids and Tween Teams with special guest Brenda Gardner from Santee-Lynches. Ms. Gardner will talk about careers and what happens after finishing school.
*Please note the changed date for this month.
Saturday, April 18
10 AM – 2 PM in Elgin
Game Day: Stop in anytime during branch hours to play with our selection of board games. Feel free to bring your own! It's fun for all ages.
Monday, April 20
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM in Camden
Spring is in the Air! Let's Craft!! Join us for an hour of fun as we create a springtime treasure with Susan Leonard! Please call the library at 803-425-1508 to sign up. For ages 18+
Tuesday, April 21
10:30 AM – 11 AM in Bethune
Kids' Storytime with First Steps: Our friends at Kershaw County First Steps are coming to Bethune for stories, songs, and activities! All ages welcome.
Tuesday, April 21
5 PM – 6 PM in Bethune
Bethune Book Club: This month, our club will discuss The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick. New members welcome.
Wednesday, April 22
4 PM – 5 PM in Elgin
Keys to Diabetes & Better Health: Join us for an information session with

AJ VS NORTH CENTRAL BOYS SOCCER



AJ #5 Crt Thomas Horton keeps North Central from scoring.....AJ BOYS WIN 4-0 (Gwynn Leaird Photography)

AJ VS WEST FLORENCE BASEBALL



AJ #14 Hunter Faulkenberry catches the ball for an out for The Volunteers.....AJ boys lost 2-12 (Gwynn Leaird Photography)

AJ VS YORK PREP BOYS SOCCER



AJ #2 Judson Cauthen trying to settle the ball for The Volunteers.....AJ boys win 7-0 (Gwynn Leaird Photography)