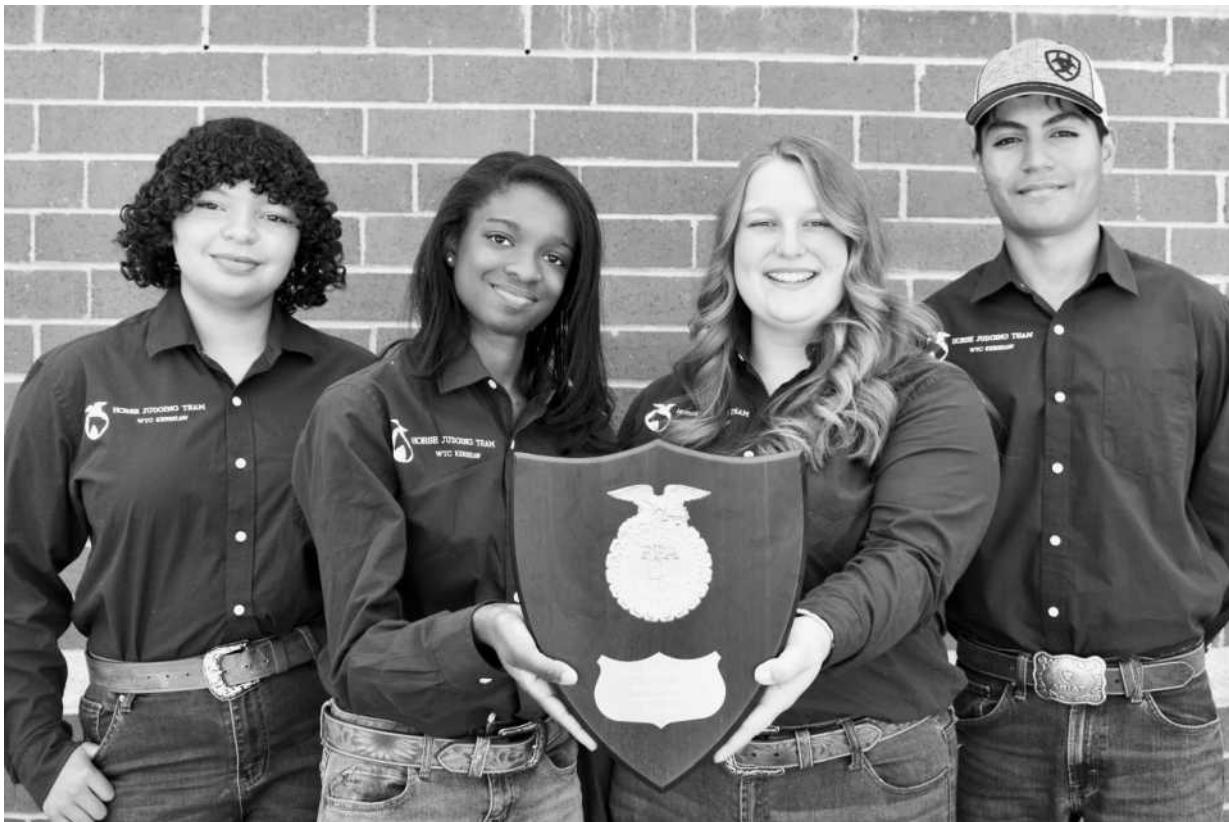


WTC Kershaw County FFA Places 1st In South Carolina FFA Horse Evaluation CDE



WTC Kershaw County FFA Horse Judging Team with 1st place plaque
From left to right Corinne Rand, Jalynn Golson, Madeline Foret, Eric Vergara Lopez

(Camden, SC) – WTC Kershaw County FFA Chapter members traveled to Clemson, South Carolina, on April 17, 2026, to compete in the state Horse Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE). These members were Madeline Foret, Eric Vergara Lopez, Corinne Rand, and Jalynn Golson. Corinne Rand scored 1st High Overall Individual, and the team placed 1st overall. Winning first in this event, these students will advance to the national-level competition and represent South Carolina at the National FFA Convention next October. Students who participate in the National FFA Horse Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE)

gain new insights into equine science by evaluating and ranking horses based on breed characteristics, conformation, and performance. Participants defend their decisions orally before a panel of judges.

In this team CDE, students solve problems related to everything from the nutrition and reproduction of horses to the tack/equipment and feed used to care for horses. Participants strengthen their leadership, observation, analysis, critical thinking, and communication skills while also developing and exercising a competitive team spirit and building an awareness of career opportunities within the equine industry

WTC Kershaw County FFA placed 1st in this event. The students were Madeline Foret, Eric Vergara Lopez, Corinne Rand, and Jalynn Golson. Audrey Cathcart is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor for the WTC Kershaw County FFA Chapter.

South Carolina agricultural education serves more than 12,000 students across the state. Students receive instruction in one of five different pathways within the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources career cluster. The South Carolina FFA Association is comprised of over 7,000

members across the state. The mission of the SC FFA Association is to develop premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.



Voter registration for SC primary elections ends Monday

By:Skylar Laird

COLUMBIA — Monday is the final day for South Carolina residents to newly register to vote if they want to cast a ballot in the June 9 primaries. Online registration ended Sunday night, but the State Election Commission will still accept any printed voter registration applications postmarked by Monday. Early voting runs from May 26 to June 5.

As of last week, nearly 3.4 million South Carolinians were registered to vote, according to the State Election Commission.

Voters will decide which of the six Republicans and three Democrats running for governor will appear on the November ballot. Also up for election are all 124 seats in the state House of Representatives.

Candidates for elected statewide officers will appear on the ballot as well.

That includes two competitive contests for GOP nominations as attorney general and commissioner of agriculture.

On Democrats' ballots, there are primary races for education superintendent, secretary of state, treasurer, and comptroller general.

Both parties' ballots include a race for U.S. Senate, as Lindsey Graham faces challengers from both sides.

Ballots will include candidates for Congress, though state legislators are considering delaying that primary until August.

A House subcommittee advanced a bill Friday that would reschedule congressional primaries for August amid a push to redraw district lines. The full House Judiciary Committee will take up that bill Tuesday.

Whether the Legislature pursues redistricting ultimately depends on the Senate, which is expected to vote Tuesday on a resolution that sets the rules for the off-session. Two-thirds approval in the Senate is needed to allow debate on redistricting after the regular session ends at 5 p.m. Thursday.

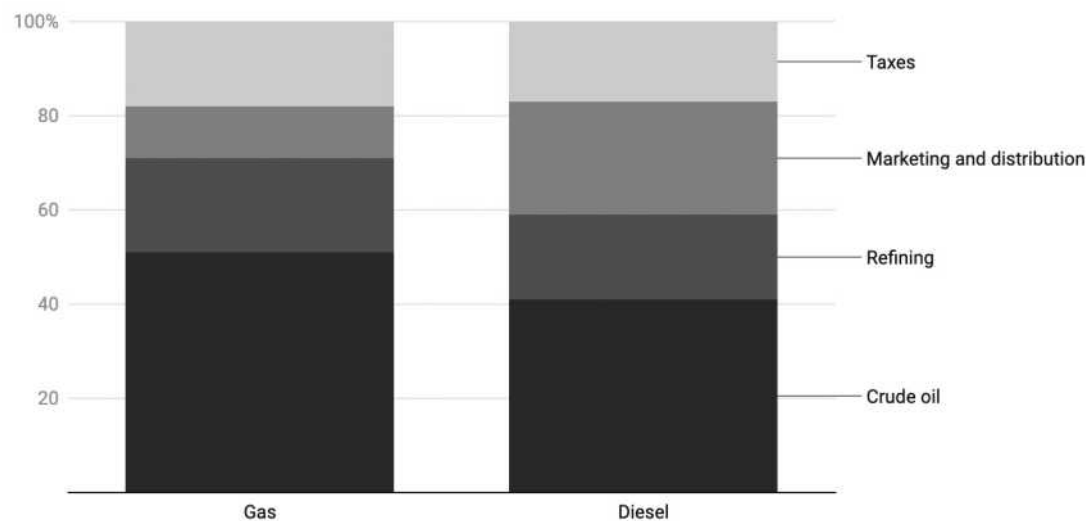
But even if congressional elections are delayed, ballots for June are already printed, so it's too late to remove those races, the state elections director told legislators.

As of Friday, the commission had mailed nearly 6,830 absentee ballots and gotten 260 back, according to commission data. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. May 29.

Registered voters can view a sample ballot, find their polling place and check their registration status on the State Election Commission's website.

The cost of crude oil is a key driver of gas and diesel prices

Just over half of the cost of a gallon of gas connects directly to the price of crude oil, which can fluctuate widely. The rest of the costs are more stable.



After weeks of surging gasoline prices with no end in sight, some Americans might be wondering what all goes into the cost of a gallon of gas. Robert I. Harris, an energy economist, breaks down gas prices for The Conversation. "The price of a retail gallon of gas is the sum of four things: the cost of crude oil, refining, distribution and marketing, and taxes. . . . In nationwide figures from January 2026, crude oil accounted for about 51% of the pump price, refining roughly 20%, distribution and marketing about 11% and taxes about 18%." Harris adds that since crude oil is the biggest component of gasoline, when its price spikes on the global market, gas prices go up.

Hanging Rock Battlefield in Lancaster County expanded



The Hanging Rock Battlefield, just south of Heath Springs, was the site of a Revolutionary War battle that helped to push the British out of South Carolina. The national nonprofit American Battlefield Trust has expanded the protected

area with a new 160-acre property on Flat Rock Road.

This land is the sixth parcel that has been obtained to support protection and interpretation of one of South Carolina's newest battlefield parks. With this purchase, the protected area at the Hanging Rock battlefield now totals 330 acres. Preservation efforts for Revolutionary War sites are advancing as America celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this year, and as South Carolina's role in winning the Revolution is highlighted in 2030 and 2031.

The American Battlefield Trust works closely with the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust and the Katawba Valley Land Trust, located in Lancaster, to protect local battlefields.

Rick Wise of Camden is the Executive Director of the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust, who said "This additional land acquisition at Hanging Rock Battlefield allows the best vantage point to see and understand the whole battle. Being able to preserve and protect this battlefield is a team effort involving SCBPT, the American Battlefield Trust, the American Battlefield

Protection Program, the South Carolina Conservation Bank, the Lancaster County 250th American Revolution Anniversary Committee, and the Katawba Valley Land Trust. We so much appreciate the indispensable support provided by local organizations and individuals like Gina Bobo of the Lancaster 250 Committee and Kip Carter, who lives on the battlefield. We thanked them all for their great support!"

David Duncan, President of the American Battlefield Trust, said "Every acre of hallowed ground that we preserve is an opportunity for us and for future generations to have a better understanding of the formative conflicts that have shaped our nation. As we mark America's 250th, it is ever more important to protect and secure historic battlefield land."

On August 6, 1780, several hundred troops under Patriot General Thomas Sumter attacked British and Loyalist troops encamped near the Hanging Rock on the Great Waxhaw Road, today's Flat Rock Road. It was a battle fought by undisciplined militia on both sides, and by provincial units for the British who were better trained. Two of the three British camps were

taken, but Sumter was unable to hold the ground. After taking what plunder he could from the captured camps, Sumter retreated to fight another day. The Patriots inflicted heavy losses on their foe, raised Patriot morale, garnered more support with their success, and survived to continue the fight. Future President Andrew Jackson, a teenager at the time, was present at the battle.

The site is part of The Liberty Trail, a statewide driving tour developed in partnership with the South Carolina Battleground Trust. Currently, visitors can enjoy a three-quarter-mile loop trail and interpretive signage. More information is available at the website <https://thelibertytrail.org/sc>.

The purchase was made possible by grant funding provided by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, South Carolina Conservation Bank, SustainSC, and private donors.

More information is available at Lancaster 250 Committee's page, southcarolina250.com/counties/lancaster; scbattlegroundtrust.org, and American Battlefield Trust's battlefields.org.