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Hartwell Lake News

Volume 28, Number 3 • Summer 2026

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INSIDE

Advertisers

Marine Specialty	pg 2
FloatAir BoatLifts	pg 3
West Cox Law Firm.....	pg 4
Green Earth.....	pg 5
Fowler Electric Systems.....	pg 6
Kroeger Maine.....	pg 7
Southern Marine Enterprise	pg 8
Nora Hooper Real Estate.....	pg 9
Clean Cut Tree Care LLC	pg 10
J & S Shoreline	pg 11
Tow BoatU.S.....	pg 13
Chapman's Landscaping Inc	pg 13
WaterCrafters.....	pg 16
DK Dock Oiling.....	pg 17
Gordon's Marine	pg 17
Marine Restoration	pg 17
Aqua Stairs.....	pg 18
Fibrenew	pg 18
North American Flags & Flag Poles....	pg 19
Sun Life Marinas	pg 19
Brown Painting	pg 19
CK Lawn Care.....	pg 19
Holbrooks Salvage & Dock Repair	pg 19
Prime Lake Services	pg 20

Articles

8th Annual Hartwell Lake Ladies Jet Ski.....	pg 1
United Way of Anderson County	pg 1
Rise Above the Skies of Anderson.....	pg 1
Planning to Build a Dock.....	pg 6
Expansion at Green Pond Landing.....	pg 6
Jet Rider Nation Brings Annual.....	pg 8
Anderson County Launches REACT.....	pg 8
Buy From Local Farmers & Markets.....	pg 12
Lake Hartwell Restaurants by Boat.....	pg 12
Respect the Lake.....	pg 13
Summer Events Around Hartwell...pgs	14-15
Observing an Increasingly Cashless...pg	17
History of the Pledge of Allegiance.....pg	18

8th Annual Hartwell Lake Ladies Jet Ski Crawl Sets Record-Breaking Fundraising Milestone Before Event Begins

ANDERSON COUNTY, S.C. — The 8th Annual Hartwell Lake Ladies Jet Ski Crawl, benefiting the Cancer Association of Anderson (CAA), will take place on Friday, August 7, 2026, bringing together women from across the Upstate for a day of fun, friendship, and giving back.

Organizers have already secured 98 business sponsors and raised more than \$94,000, surpassing last year's total of 70 business sponsors and \$67,000. The overwhelming response reflects the continued generosity of local

businesses, volunteers, riders, and community members—including Title Sponsors First Bank and Smart Marketing Advertising Agency—who believe in supporting cancer patients in Anderson County.

This year's event, themed "Fueled by Fun. Powered by Purpose", will include the annual ride across Lake Hartwell, lunch at The Grill at Clemson Marina, the traditional group photo and raft-up, and an evening celebration with dinner and live music at La Cantina on Hartwell

Lake, where a portion of proceeds will benefit CAA.

New this year is "Bust a Yard," a fun new way for the community to get involved by surprising friends, neighbors, and local businesses with bra-shaped yard signs while raising additional awareness and support for CAA.

What started as a simple lake day with friends has grown into one of the CAA's signature annual fundraisers, and one of Anderson County's favorite summer traditions. Inspired by her mother's journey as a breast cancer

survivor, event organizer Laura Thompson transformed the annual ride into a fundraiser after realizing how many participants had been personally affected by cancer.

For Angela Stringer, Executive

continued on page 4



United Way of Anderson County to Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of its Founding in Anderson County

To celebrate 80 years in Anderson County, the United Way of Anderson County launched 80 Days of Impact on May 25th. The mission is to raise \$80,000 in 80 days leading up to the organization's 80th

Anniversary Gala, on August 13th. The community has raised \$50,000 so far with exactly a month left to hit the goal. The 80th Anniversary Gala will be held on August 13th at 6:30 pm at the Bleckley Station.



The money raised will go to help families who fall into the ALICE threshold. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These are people who earn more than the Federal Poverty level, but not enough to make ends

meet. In Anderson County, 40% of households fall into that category. ALICE individuals may work as a child's daycare teacher, a restaurant server, or even a healthcare worker.

"For 80 years, the United Way of Anderson County has built a legacy by uniting people, impacting lives, and improving Anderson County. I am incredibly excited to honor the legacy of those who built this organization and focus on the future of the families who need us most today," said President & CEO, Kevin Capell. "We want to bring our community together to raise critical support for ALICE families — hardworking households who are employed, yet still struggling to afford basic necessities like housing, childcare, and transportation."

To learn more information, visit www.unitedwayofanderson.com.

continued on page 4

Rise Above the Skies of Anderson

Come join our Hot Air Affair sponsors: Blossman Gas & Appliance, Anderson County, The City of Anderson, AnMed, The Peoples Bank, Thrivent, Craig Johnson, Mosteller Construction LLC, and many others as 40+ hot air balloons Rise Above the Skies of Anderson. Features include a kids-zone, music, and local entertainment during the day when the balloons are not flying as well as food, craft, and merchandise vendors! New this year is the Rural Agricultural Expo which will be inside the Civic Center of Anderson's Arena!

Complete your Labor Day Weekend with the Hot Air Affair: Rising Above Cancer festivities and don't miss Anderson County's annual tradition - Celebrate Anderson on Sunday evening, complete with fireworks and music!

According to Cancer Associa-

tion Director Angela Stringer, "We look forward to welcoming our family of balloon pilots to the skies over Anderson County every year! The opportunity to provide a FREE event that raises funds and awareness for

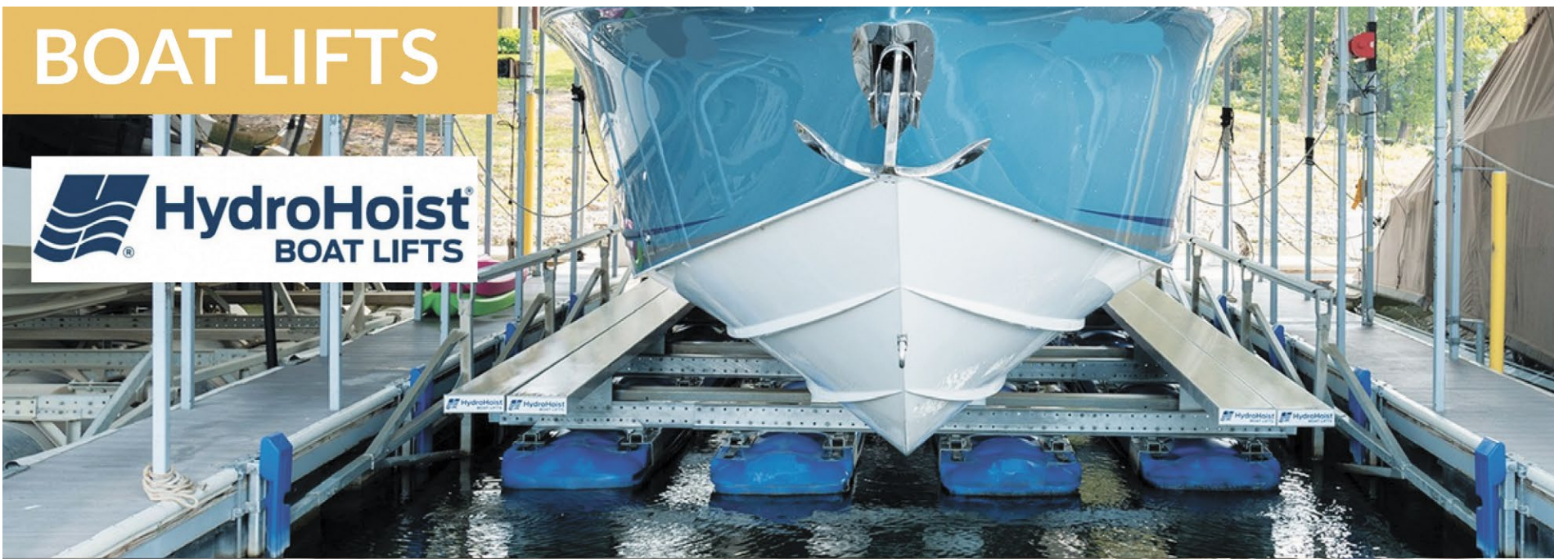
our brave patients and survivors makes it even more exciting! Please come out and join us for a family-friendly weekend with hot air balloons, Rural Ag Expo, kids-zone, food trucks, vendors, and much, much more. We are also looking for community partners to help us keep this wonderful event FREE to the public.

There are many ways to get involved and make an impact. Please know that your partnership will make a huge difference in Anderson County residents who are battling cancer while at the same time, helping CAA continue to grow a 9-year tradition - a family-friendly

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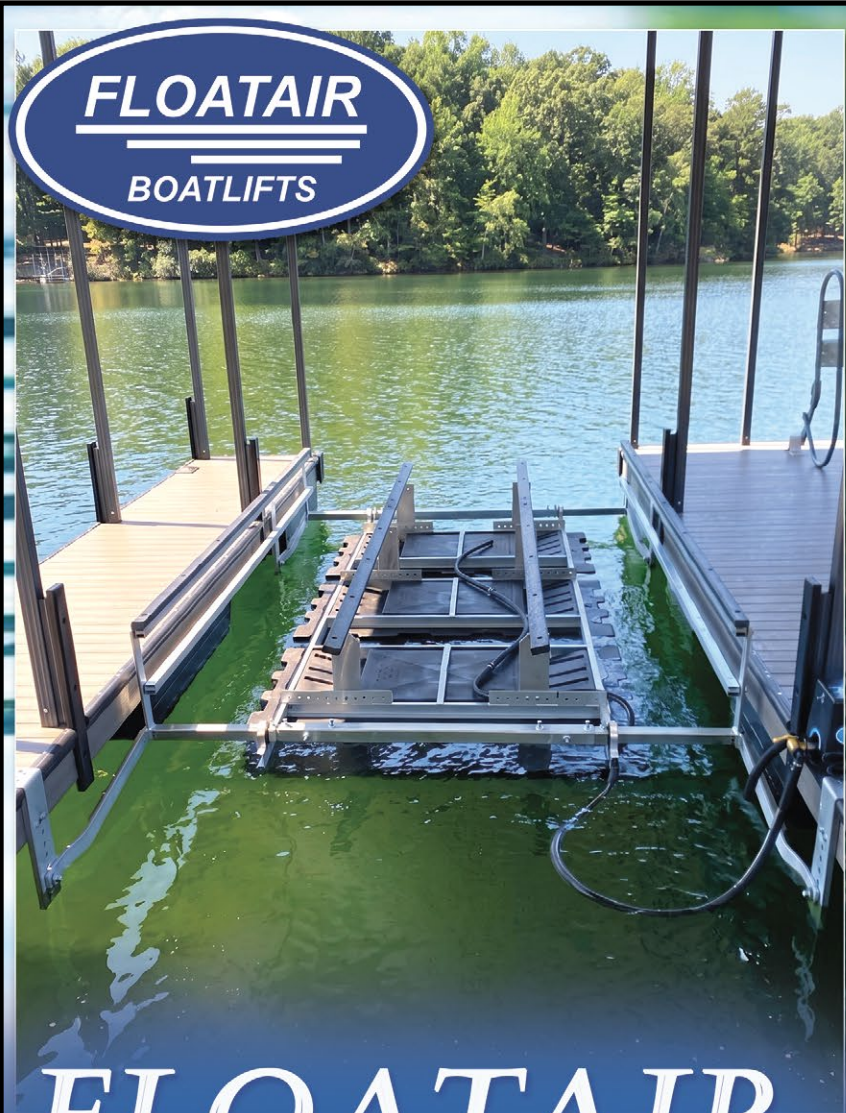


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8th Annual Hartwell Lake Ladies Jet Ski Crawl – continued from page 1



Director of CAA, the event is a powerful reminder of what a caring community can accomplish together.

"This signature event was started by a

group of caring women who love Lake Hartwell and love the Cancer Association of Anderson. Since its humble beginnings, the event has grown into one of our major fundraisers, and

these amazing women continue to make a tremendous impact in the lives of Anderson County cancer patients."

"We're incredibly grateful for the continued support of our sponsors—especially First Bank, Smart Marketing, and the many businesses throughout Anderson County that have helped make this year's event our biggest yet. Their generosity allows us to assist 60 to 70 newly diagnosed cancer patients every month by providing treatment-related financial assistance, information, referrals, and emotional support. Every dollar raised stays right here in our community, and we simply couldn't do it without them."

Founded in 2003, the Cancer Association of Anderson is the only local cancer charity

serving Anderson County. The organization provides treatment-related financial assistance, educational resources, referrals, and emotional support to local cancer patients and their families. ■



United Way of Anderson County to Celebrate the 80th Anniversary – cont. from page 1

org/80. Donations can be completed online or mailed to United Way of Anderson County, P.O. Box 2067, Anderson, SC 29622. For more information contact Jada Hudson with the United Way of Anderson County at 864-226-3438 ext. 108. ■



Rise Above the Skies of Anderson – continued from page 1

event that enriches our community."

Organizers anticipate 30,000+ people during the three-day event again this year.

Schedule and more information will be posted on our event website: RisingAboveCancer.com.

*Hot Air Balloon events are weather dependent. If the weather is not conducive to statics, glows, or flights, they will be called off. Hot Air Affair: Rising Above Cancer's Balloonmeister and weather professional decisions are final.

CAA will host a couple of training sessions for those who would like to volunteer and/or crew with the balloons. For all Volunteer Opportunities, contact: HotAirAffair@caanderson.org.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available!



For more ways you can get involved, please email Angela@CAAnderson.org or call 864.222.3500.

CANCER ASSOCIATION OF ANDERSON

For twenty-three years, the Cancer Association of Anderson has successfully fulfilled its mission to "lessen the burden on Anderson County residents who are battling cancer" by providing financial, physical, and emotional assistance". CAA is a LOCAL charity and is not affiliated with, nor receives any funding from larger, national organizations such as the American Cancer Society or any Relay for Life events. ■



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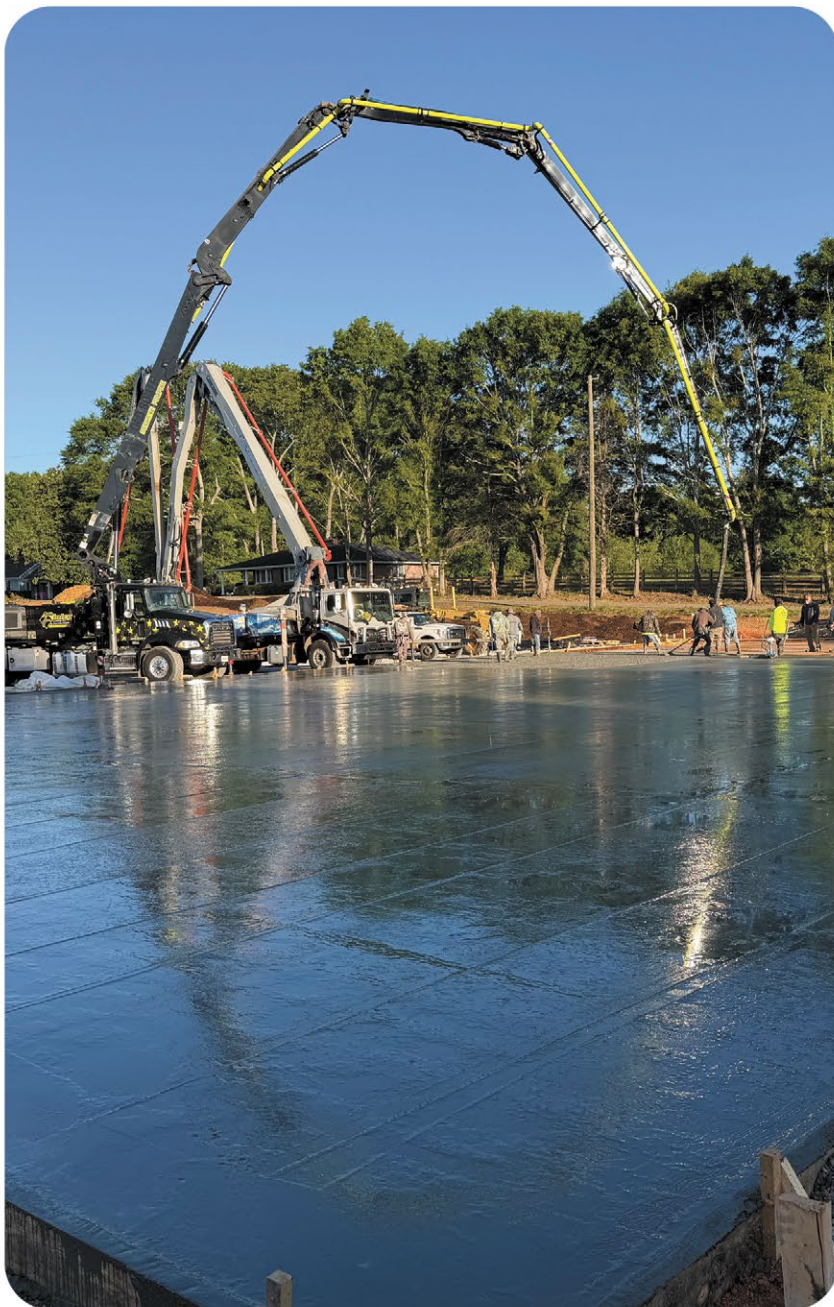
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Planning to Build a Dock on Lake Hartwell? Here's What Every Property Owner Should Know

Owning lakefront property on Lake Hartwell comes with many advantages, and for many homeowners, building a private dock is at the top of the wish list. Whether your plans include boating, fishing, swimming, or simply enjoying peaceful evenings on the water, a dock can significantly enhance your waterfront lifestyle. However, because Lake Hartwell is a federally managed reservoir, building a dock involves much more than choosing a design and hiring a contractor.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Savannah District, oversees shoreline management on Lake Hartwell and regulates all private docks through its Shoreline Management Plan. Before construction begins, property owners must obtain a Shoreline Use Permit from the Corps. Building a dock without approval can result in costly penalties and the possible removal of the structure.

One of the first steps is determining whether your property qualifies for a dock. New private

docks are generally permitted only in designated Limited Development Areas, often referred to as "green zones" on Corps shoreline maps. Even if your property is located in one of these areas, approval is not automatic. Corps officials evaluate several factors, including shoreline frontage, water depth, navigation safety, environmental impacts, and the spacing between neighboring docks. For this reason, prospective buyers should always verify that a property is dock eligible before purchasing lakefront real estate.

Once eligibility has been confirmed, homeowners must submit an application that includes a recorded deed, property plat, dock construction plans, and the required permit fees. The Corps will review the application and conduct a site inspection before issuing approval. In addition, dock plans must meet structural requirements established by the Corps, including approval by a state-licensed structural engineer to ensure the

dock is capable of withstanding changing lake conditions and fluctuating water levels.

Lake Hartwell also has specific design standards for private docks. Regulations generally limit dock size, establish requirements for approved flotation systems and anchoring methods, and require docks to blend with the natural surroundings through the use of earth-tone colors. Electrical systems installed on docks must comply with updated safety requirements, and inspections by a licensed electrician are generally required before permit renewals. As a result, many homeowners are choosing solar-powered lighting and boat lift systems, which reduce maintenance while eliminating many electrical safety concerns.

Another question frequently asked by property owners is whether a dock can include an upper-level sun deck. The answer is yes—but only under certain conditions. The Shoreline Management Plan allows qualifying covered slip docks to include a second-

level open sundeck. The upper level may be used for relaxing, entertaining, or sunbathing, but it must remain open to the sky. Permanent roofs, enclosed rooms, or other fixed structures above the sundeck are not permitted. Flat docks without covered slips are generally limited to a single level and cannot include an upper deck.

Although the permitting process may seem extensive, these regulations are designed to protect Lake Hartwell's shoreline, preserve water quality, maintain safe navigation, and ensure fair access for all lake users. By working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and an experienced dock builder early in the planning process, homeowners can avoid costly delays and ensure their dock meets all current requirements. A properly permitted dock not only adds value to a lakefront property but also creates a place where families and friends can enjoy everything Lake Hartwell has to offer for years to come. ■

By Susan Woody Martin

Over the last 12 years, fishing tournaments held at Green Pond Landing and Event Center in Anderson County have generated more than \$116 million in economic impact. A planned expansion project at the venue promises that momentum will continue.

On June 11, 2026, Anderson County issued a bid seeking qualified contractors to expand boating access and infrastructure with a new east-side boat ramp and dock at Green Pond Landing. "The new three-lane ramp and courtesy dock

Expansion at Green Pond Landing on the Horizon

will be the mirror image of the existing west-side ramp and L-shaped courtesy dock," said Judy Shelato, Anderson County Project Manager.

After officials open bids in July, construction will occur during the fall in anticipation of a January 15, 2027, completion date.

"The completion of the additional launch lanes and courtesy dock at Green Pond Landing will be a much-needed addition to the facility," said Neil Paul, Executive Director at Visit Anderson.

"The credit for the completion of the project goes to the leadership of Anderson County. They

have continued to develop Green Pond Landing, which has served as a major economic driver for the Upstate of South Carolina."

The goal is to have the project completed and operational for the 2027 Bassmaster Classic Tournament in March 2027. Shelato describes the project as both a capacity increase and a time saver.

"It will allow competing fishermen to launch faster in the morning and then more quickly trailer their boats when they return," she said.

"Six-lane ramps are the standard for tournament launches. Ours was planned to have six lanes but initially we could not afford all six

and built only three. Many of our tournaments have more than 200 boats to launch at the break of dawn. It takes a considerable amount of time to get them all in the water, organized, and then released to fish."

Although the new ramp will not extend as deep as the original west ramp, Shelato said it will provide lake access approximately 95% of the time based on lake-level history.

"Due to the high capacity of the facility the additional lanes and dock space are much needed," Paul said. "These additions will be welcomed by

continued on page 8

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Expansion at Green Pond Landing on the Horizon – continued from page 6

our residents and guests who enjoy Green Pond. The same can be said for our anglers, tourists, and future fishing tournaments.”

The project includes excavation and grading for the new ramp, construction of a three-lane reinforced concrete ramp, installation of a new east abutment, modification of the existing

middle abutment, installation of a new L-shaped floating ground-out dock system, and installation of two new ramp light poles at the middle and east abutments. There is an existing light pole at the west ramp abutment.

“Green Pond Landing is already recognized as one of the top facilities of its kind in America,”

Paul said. “The continued development of this great venue further sets the bar for how tournament facilities are measured.”

According to Shelato, the project is funded by: \$1,000,000 from the Department of Interior Sport Fish Restoration Grant through the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

(SCDNR) and \$300,000 from the Anderson County Legislative Delegation Water Recreation Resource Fund through SCDNR.

The remainder of the funding will come from Anderson County Accommodations Fee Revenue Bond which will be determined when the bids are opened in July. ■

Jet Rider Nation Brings Annual Carolinas PWC Ride to Lake Hartwell

By Reed Oliver, Hartwell Lake News

Personal watercraft riders from across the Southeast gathered on Lake Hartwell for the annual Jet Rider Nation Carolinas Weekend, an all-day group ride organized by Mason Piazza of South Carolina.

The 2026 ride began at Tugaloo State Park, where riders launched in the morning before setting out across Lake Hartwell for a full day on the water. Throughout the day, the group traveled

across different sections of the lake, stopping along sandy shoreline areas and coves to regroup, visit, take photos and enjoy the scenery.

The event brought together riders from South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and other areas connected through the larger Jet Rider Nation community.

The group is known for organized personal watercraft rides, regional chapters and a strong social media presence that helps connect riders across state lines.

Lake Hartwell provided an ideal setting for the event, with its wide-open water, scenic shoreline, islands, coves and recreational access points. Photos from the day showed rows of colorful personal watercraft pulled up along the shoreline, riders visiting between stops and groups cruising across the lake.

After spending the day riding, exploring and enjoying time together on the water, the group returned to Tugaloo State Park, completing a full-day loop that highlighted Lake Hartwell as

one of the Southeast’s premier destinations for personal watercraft recreation.

Beyond the ride itself, events like this also bring visitors into the Lake Hartwell area, supporting local marinas, fuel docks, restaurants, lodging, campgrounds and other lake-area businesses.

For many participants, the annual Carolinas ride is more than a day on personal watercraft. It is a reunion, a tradition and a chance to experience Lake Hartwell with fellow riders who share the same love for life on the water. ■

Anderson County Launches REACT Fraud Alert Service to Enhance Protection for Residents

Anderson, SC—In a move set to strengthen real estate asset protection, Anderson County Register of Deeds just announced the launch of cutting-edge software designed to alert homeowners, lenders, and real estate professionals about changes to deeds, mortgages, and other types of recorded instruments in real-time. This service is FREE to Anderson County property owners. With increasing concerns about fraudulent activity, the demand for real-time monitoring tools has surged. REACT

(Real Estate Activity Alert and Contact Tool) provides an extra layer of security and ensures users are always aware of critical changes in property-related documents.

The new platform leverages the Register of Deeds’ newly installed Ingenuity Land Records Management software to monitor new recordings and provide timely notifications whenever a deed, mortgage, or any other land record matches the registered user’s name(s). The REACT system aims to give users peace of mind and notification of potential fraud by

staying ahead of critical property and financial changes.

Key Features:

- Real-Time Alerts: Receive near-instantaneous notifications of any new filings in deeds, mortgages and other land records, ensuring users stay informed of important developments regarding their properties. Maximum Coverage: No need to specify properties, deed types, or mortgage events. By simply entering in your information, you are alerted to all new records matching the name(s) given under applicable

instruments.

- Easy-to-use Registration System: Simply visit the Register of Deeds online records website and select the REACT option from your own home computer.

- Security & Privacy: All user data entered is encrypted and protected, adhering to the highest standards of privacy and data security.

Availability: The software is now available for free to all citizens. For more information, <https://ingcountyapp.com/Andersonrod/>. ■

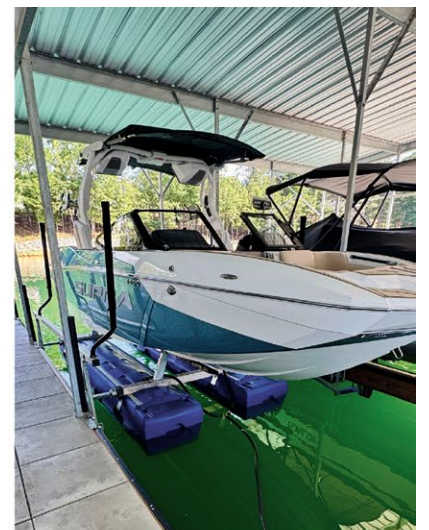


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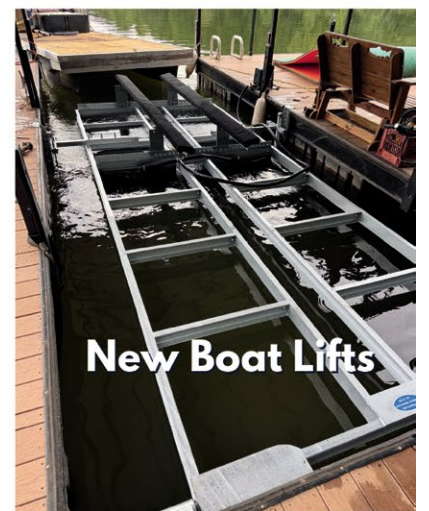
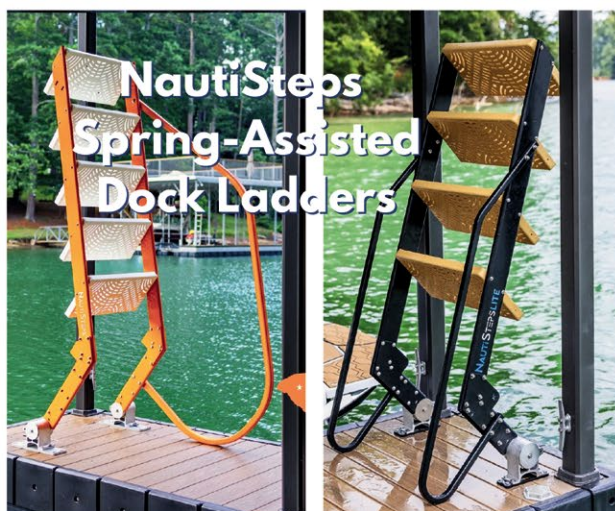
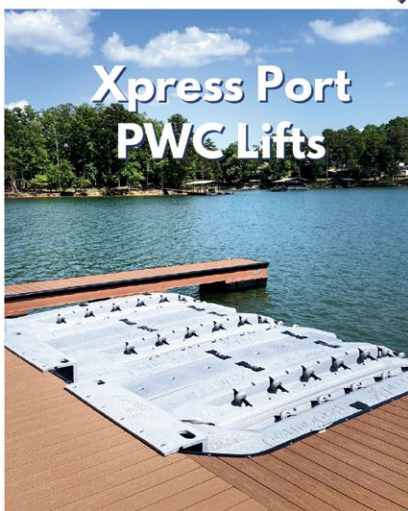
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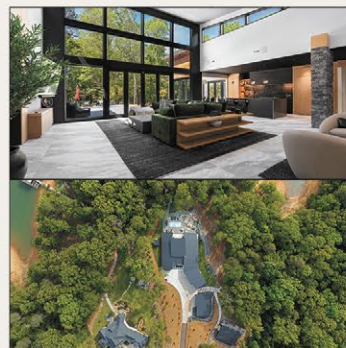
SHORELINE STAIRS, RIP RAP AND CART PATHS

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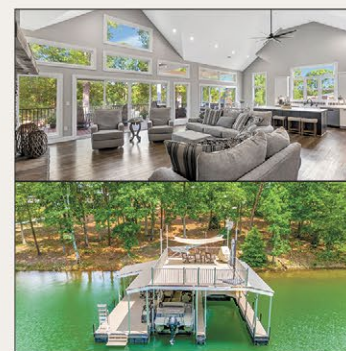
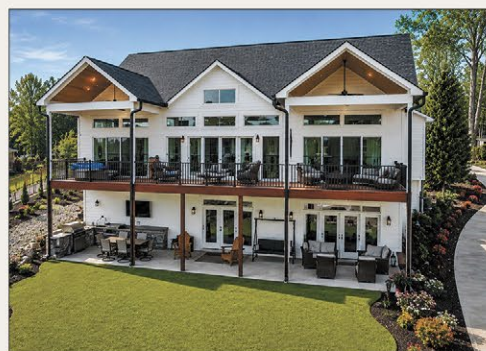
128 Chasewater Drive, Anderson, SC \$2,699,000

Some lake homes are beautiful. Others redefine luxury. Welcome to one of Lake Hartwell's most extraordinary waterfront estates in the prestigious Chasewater community. This custom 7,998 sq. ft. home offers 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, and approximately 415 feet of shoreline with breathtaking lake views. Designed for luxury living, it features a gourmet chef's kitchen plus a prep kitchen, soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, a stunning double-sided stone fireplace, and a main-level primary suite overlooking the pool and lake. Enjoy a heated saltwater pool with spa, multiple outdoor living spaces, media room, exercise room, custom bunk/playroom, guest quarters with a full kitchen, 985 sq. ft. of storage, a covered dock with boat lift and two PWC lifts, plus a 3-car and golf cart garage. Minutes to I-85, shopping, and only 30 minutes to downtown Greenville. Luxury lake living at its finest.



1143 Hawk Harbor Drive Anderson SC \$4,995,000

Some lake homes are impressive. Others are destinations. This one is a work of art. Nestled on approximately 5.72 private acres, this extraordinary Lake Hartwell estate combines ultra-contemporary architecture, exceptional craftsmanship, deep-water access, and unmatched privacy. Designed for luxurious one-level living, the 4,873-square-foot residence features four massive bi-fold glass walls, Sierra Pacific windows and doors, Thermador appliances, custom European white oak cabinetry, Adamantium granite, and a spectacular glass-enclosed dining room and primary suite. Outdoors, enjoy a heated and chilled saltwater pool with spa, Lynx outdoor kitchen, fire features, cascading waterfall, and professionally designed landscaping. Additional amenities include a guest house, recreation and wellness building, detached heated and cooled garage, whole-house generator, Sonos system, and a two-story covered dock with dual boat lifts. One of Lake Hartwell's most extraordinary waterfront estates.



401 Broadwater Circle Anderson SC \$2,490,000

The Perfect Lake Hartwell Home! No HOA and sold fully furnished, this stunning 2023 waterfront home offers 5,200 heated sq. ft. (7,300 under roof), 7 bedrooms, 5 baths, and sleeps up to 25. Perfect as a luxury residence, family retreat, or proven VRBO investment. Enjoy soaring vaulted ceilings, walls of glass with breathtaking lake views, a gourmet kitchen, two full kitchens, expansive Trex decking, luxury outdoor living, and a resort-style outdoor kitchen. The walkout lower level is ideal for entertaining or multi-generational living. Beautiful AstroTurf lawns provide year-round beauty with minimal maintenance. A maximum-size two-story dock with two boat lifts, attached and detached garages, and ample parking complete this incredible property. Conveniently located near Clemson, shopping, golf, restaurants, and popular wedding venues. Transferable rental bookings generated 100 plus nights at \$1,200-\$1,500 per night.



2212 Surfside Drive, Anderson SC \$1,350,000

Lake Hartwell Waterfront! Enjoy breathtaking big-water views, deep water, and approximately 150 feet of shoreline on a beautiful 1-acre lot. This move-in-ready all-brick home features a newer covered dock with boat lifts, seawall shoreline with steps to the water, new roof, 2-car garage, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings with exposed beams, a floor-to-ceiling fireplace, and a granite kitchen. The main-level primary suite offers two walk-in closets and a private bath. The walkout lower level includes a spacious family room, bedroom, kitchenette, recreation room, and workshop—perfect for guests or entertaining. Relax on the expansive upper deck or lower patio while taking in the incredible lake views. A rare opportunity to own a premier Lake Hartwell waterfront home in an exceptional location.

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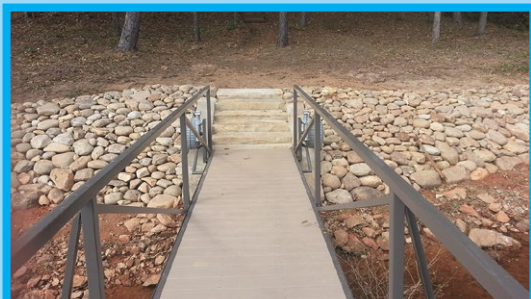
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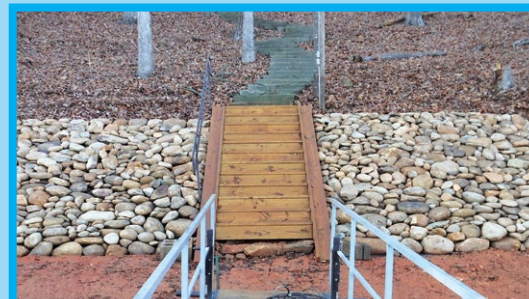
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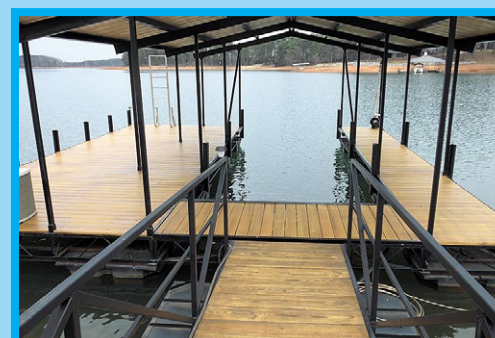


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Anderson County Farmers Market

402 N. Murray Ave. Facebook.com/
AndersonCountyFarmersMarket
Sharon Nicometo 864-231-1924

Denver Downs Farm

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864-297-0140, DenverDownsFarm.com

Hurricane Creek Farms

220 Moores Mill Rd., Pelzer
864-399-1343, HurricanCreekFarms.com

Sol Flowers of Anderson

US Hwy 81 N. & Bradley Rd., Anderson
864-958-8700, Facebook.com/
SolFlowersAndersonSC

Anderson Jockey Lot & Farmers Market

4530 Hwy 29, N., Belton Jockeylot.com
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Drake Farm

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864-352-3774, DrakeFamilyFarms.com

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Split Creek Farm

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Info@SplitCreek.com SplitCreek.com

Barefoot Farms of Belton

293 Murphy Rd., Belton
864-380-2002, BarefootFarmsOfBelton.com

FARM Center in Seneca

864-539-2221, 2063 Sandifer Blvd., Seneca
www.farmoconee.org

Lucky Acres Farm

1024 Milford Rd., Townville
864-287-2339, LuckyAcresFarm.com

Bart Garrison Agricultural Museum of SC

120 History Lane, Pendleton 864-646-7271,
BGAMSC.org

Foothills Heritage Market

864-539-222, 1 May 3 – Mid September
Saturday 8AM - noon www.farmoconee.org

Milky Way Farm

220 Hidden Hills Rd., Starr
864-352-2014, SCMilkyWayFarm.com

Taylor Creek Farm

2204 Sunshine Rd., Toccoa
May - October, Michelle Lindsey
970-420-0790

Berry Acres LLC

230 Strawberry Rd., Anderson,
864-224-5441, BerryAcresLLC.com

Forx Farm LLC

5575 Dobbins Bridge Rd., Anderson,
864-328-1475, ForxFarm.com

Pendleton Farmers Market

310 Greenville St., Pendleton 864-646-6101,
Facebook.com/pages/category/
Farmers-Market/Pendleton-Farmers-Market

Tokeena Angus

Seneca: www.tokeena.com
864-247-000, Neil and Gwen McPhail

Brook Valley Farm

Walker Rd., Anderson, 864-346-2653,
BrookValleyFarm.net

Golden Grove Farm & Brew

115 Krim Rd., Piedmont
864-356-1097, FarmAndBrew.com

Red Creek Farm

1394 Ramage Rd., Townsville
864-376-5158, RedCreekFarm.com

Walker Century Farms

110 Walker Rd., Anderson
864-940-4593, WalkerCenturyFarms.com

Callaham Orchards

559 Crawford Rd., Belton, 864-338-0810,
Facebook.com/Callaham-Orchards

Hartwell Farmers Market

500 E. Howel St., 706-376-3134,
hartfarmers.blog, jhaplin@uga.edu

Stephen County Farmers Market

Forrest Connelly 706-779-550,
325 N. Broad St., Toccoa

Whitehall Produce

2606 Whitehall Rd., Anderson
864-772-0045, Facebook.com/pages/
Whitehall-Produce-And-Local-Market

Clemson Farmers' Market

Patrick Square Village Green 578
Issaqueena Trail
864-654-1200, agriculture.sc.gov

Holliday's Veggie Patch

1402 Mattison Rd., Belton
864-940-6320, HollidaysVeggiePatch.com

Seneca Farmers Market

2063 Sandifer Blvd., 864-885-2726,
farmcentersences@gmail.com

Possum Kingdom Creamery

520 Acker Rd., Belton 864-423-4048,
info@PKCreamery.com, PKCreamery.com

Concord Market
208 Concord, Anderson 864-245-3910,
Facebook.com/ConcordMarketsc

Lake Hartwell Restaurants Accessible by Boat

The Galley Restaurant: Located at Portman Marina, 1629 Marina Rd, Anderson, SC, 864-287-3215, Tues. - Sat. 5pm – 9pm, Sun. & Mon. Closed, www.galleyrestaurantportmanmarina.com. Waterfront dining serving fresh seafood, prime beef, specialty dishes, sushi. Outdoor dining is available & two private dining rooms for your special occasions. Accepting reservations & would encourage you to call ahead for weekends & holidays. **Buoy 79**

Boat House Grill: Located at Hartwell Marina, 149 Hartwell Marina Drive, Hartwell, GA, 706-376-5150, Thur. & Sun. 11am – 9pm, Thur., Fri. & Sat. Live Music, Fri., and Sat. 11am – 9pm, www.theboathousegrill.com, Live music & events every weekend, indoor & outdoor seating, a variety of games, and a sandy beach where the kids can hunt rocks or watch the fish! **Buoy MLLC8**

The Waterfront Grill: Located at 1600 Asbury Park Rd, Anderson across from the double bridges & across from Green Pond Landing. Low Country boil, crab legs, grouper, apple pie, pork chops, turnip greens, burger, waffles, chicken & waffles, shrimp & grits, French toast, both indoor & outdoor setting, catering available, birthday parties. www.theshoresofasbury.com. Open 11am, 7 days a week. 864-844-9002.

Tilly's Tiki Bar & Grill: Located at Harbor Light Marina, 1476 Harbor Light Marina Rd., Lavonia, GA, 706-356-0727, Mon. – Wed., Closed, Thur. 5pm – 9pm, Fri. – Sat. 12pm–9pm, Sun. 10am – 9pm, www.tillystikibargrill.com. Serving fresh seafood, steak, salads & sandwiches. Team Trivia weekly Sun. 6pm – 8:30pm, **Buoy T51**

J.R. Cash's Grill and Bar: Located at Big Water Marina, 320 Big Water Rd., Starr, SC, 864-309-0111, Fri. – Sat. 11am –

10pm, www.jrcashs.com. Serving fresh, scratch-made, classic American grill. Whether enjoying a legendary salad, oversize sandwiches, or a huge, fresh patty piled high with fixin's. Outdoor setting with a beautiful view of the lake. **Buoy 10**

The Grill at Clemson Marina: Located at Clemson Marina, 150 Clemson Marina Drive, Seneca, SC, 864-653-6767, Fri. & Sun. 11am – 9pm, www.clemsonmarina.com. Serving burgers to tacos & wings, po boys to chicken fingers, salads, wraps and grilled sandwiches in an open air, relaxed environment. Outdoor playground, offering top notch food under refreshing ceiling fans with stunning views of Lake Hartwell & Clemson University's Death Valley. **Buoy 89**

Pixie and Bill's: Located at 1058 Tiger Blvd, Clemson, SC, 864-654-1210, Mon. – Sat. 5pm – 9pm, Sun. closed, www.pixieandbills.com, Fine dining serving fresh seafood, natural hand-cut beef, pasta, pork, chicken, seafood, vegetarian & gluten-free. Opened since 1971, accepting reservations. **Buoy S98**

Waldrop's Restaurant: Located at 1141 Andersonville Road, Townville, SC, 864-287-3958, Breakfast 7am – 10:30am, Lunch 11am – 2pm. Scratch made biscuits, Jalapeno cheese grits, daily specials, burgers, signature sandwiches, salads & more. Across the road from **Buoy T10**

Doc's Lakeside Bar & Grill: Located at 4023 Whitehall Road, Anderson, 864-540-0000, Mon. Closed, Tues. – Thur. 3pm – 9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11am – 10pm, Sun. 11am – 9am, www.docslakeside.com. Outside setting, waterfront bar & grill. Authentic eats that delight your tastebuds. Using the finest ingredients from “On a Roll” or Between the Bun with angus beef smash burgers, cheesesteak & Maryland style crab cakes.

Shareables like Maryland crab dip, Ahi tuna poke' dip and fried jumbo shrimp. Pinsas an Italian flour crust pizzas with the best toppings. Live music and much more!

Tommy Ray's BBQ: Located at 73 Ack Powell Rd., Harwell, 706-371-9254, tommyraysbbq.com, Friday 10:30am – 6pm or SOLD OUT, Saturday 10:30am – 4pm or SOLD OUT, Whichever comes first. Nothing can beat wood, fire, smoke, and heat so it is kept simple letting the flavor speak for itself. Passed down recipes, tried & true. Using Texas Brisket & Carolina BBQ to gather 'round the table. Serving sliced brisket, pulled pork, St. Louis Spare Ribs, House made sausage, chicken & whole pork butt. Sandwiches sliced/chopped/pulled, sides Brunswick stew, creamy cole slaw & more.

Your Pie Pizza: Located at 894 Tiger Blvd, Clemson, 864-642-6888, yourpie.com, Mon. – Sun. 11am – 10pm, Clemson dockside, the premier destination for artisanal pizza. Hand-tossed dough & homemade sauces lay the foundation for a unique dining experience. Variety of options including vegan, vegetarian, gluten free & keto-friendly creations. Oven-fired wings, pasta & Italian-inspired gelato. Lunch or Dinner, curbside pickup, delivery and outdoor seating.

Raines at Stone Creek Cove: Located at 1500 Providence Church Road, Anderson, Tues. – Fri. 4pm – 9pm, Sat. 11am – 9pm, Sun. 11am – 6pm, Mon. closed, rainesatccc.com, join us, savor our flavors & dining experience with these menu highlights, ½ club& salad, Philly cheesesteak, pot roast melt, fish n chips, grilled chicken, grilled salmon, pork porterhouse, ribeye & sirloin. ■

Respect the Lake

By Reed Oliver, Hartwell Lake News

Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore urges Lake Hartwell visitors to use common sense, wear life jackets and stay alert before an ordinary day becomes an emergency. Greg Shore, Anderson County Coroner said, "They need to realize that they need to respect the lake."

Lake Hartwell is one of the greatest resources in Northeast Georgia and Upstate South Carolina. It brings families, boaters, fishermen, vacationers, homeowners and visitors together across multiple counties and two states. But Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore says that same lake deserves respect.

"They need to realize that they need to respect the lake," Shore said. "Just like driving a car, you've got to pay attention. You don't need to be distracted. You don't need to be drinking and boating."

Shore, who also serves as President of Medshore EMS in Anderson County, has seen both the beauty of the lake and the tragedy that can happen when people underestimate it. He lives on the lake himself and understands what it means to the community. But his message for the public is clear: Lake Hartwell is a gift, but it is not without danger.

"Being proactive and being defensive and being safety minded anytime you're on the lake, whether you're swimming, boating, you need to keep those things in mind," Shore said.

Good swimmers can still get in trouble.

One of the most dangerous assumptions people make, Shore said, is believing that swimming ability alone will protect them.

"Most people, even good swimmers, think that they're not going to drown, but what can happen is something unexpected could happen," Shore said.

That unexpected moment may be a cramp, fatigue, alcohol, drugs, panic, distance, wakes, hidden underwater hazards or sudden changes in lake conditions. A person may feel confident at first, then realize too late that the swim back to shore or back from an island is farther than it looked. "They don't realize how far that is. It looks closer than it actually is."

That point is especially important on a lake as large and deceptive as Hartwell. Islands, coves and shorelines may appear manageable from the water, but distance can be difficult to judge. A swimmer who starts strong can become exhausted before reaching safety.

"In some of the cases that we've had recently, the swimmer has gotten fatigued trying to swim back to shore and goes under and never resurfaces," Shore said.

Lake conditions also change with water levels. During lower water periods, areas that are normally covered can become shallow, exposed or hazardous. Shore reminded lake users that Lake Hartwell was once farmland before the dam was built and the water backed up. "The swimmers and the general public need to understand that there are hazards out

continued on page 16

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Summer Events Around Hartwell Lake *Call before attending events to verify time*

July 20, 27, 6PM- 9PM, Open Mic Night, Carolina Bauernhaus, 115 Federal St., Anderson July 20, 10:30AM – 11AM, Mover and Shaker Storytime, Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. Mc Duffie St., Anderson July 21, 9:15AM – 3:19PM, Preschool Storytime, Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson July 21, 9AM – 11AM, Bid Kids Tiny World, City Seed at the Station, 520 N. Murray, Anderson July 21, 28, 5PM, Ping Pong Tournament, Golden Grove Farm & Brew, 115 Krim Rd., Piedmont July 21, 6:30PM, Stress Relief Wine Tasting, Kitchen Emporium, 418 N. Main St., Anderson July 21, 7PM, Pub Cinema Night, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson July 22, 6:30PM, Stitch Night, Carolina Bauerhaus, 115 Federal St., Anderson July 22, 29, All Day, New Comic Release, Empire Games, 118 N. McDuffie St., Anderson July 22, 12PM, County Bank Summer Lunch & Learn Series, Common Estate Planning Mistakes, Anderson Chamber of Commerce, 423 N. Main St., Anderson July 22, 29, 7PM, Trivia, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson July 23, 6PM – 9PM, Learn How to Play Mahjong, Belton Area Museum, 100 N. Main St., Belton July 23, 10AM – 7PM, Summer Movie Series, The Wild Robot, Child \$2, Adult \$3, Concessions \$1, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa July 23, All Day, Country Star Tracy Byrd, Live, Pickens County Performing Art Center, 314 W. Main St., Liberty, www.pickenstheater.com, Tickets Available at Buy ticket July 24, 7PM – 8PM, Huey Lewis Tribute, “Back To The Future” Party, Ticket \$25, 166 W. Doyle St., Tocca July 24, 7PM, Joe Owens Music, The Central Roller Mills, 300 Madden Bridge Rd., Central July 25, 6PM, Live Music, Big Water Marina, Iva July 25, 7:30PM, Mamma Mania, Oconee Humane Society, Vibrant 1970s, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com July 25, 8PM, Jordan B. Band, Singer, Songwriter & Evangelist Jordan Colletta, Contemporary Christian Music, 60’s & 70’s Hits, Doyle Street, Downtown Toccoa July 25, 9:30AM – 1PM, Discover Lake Hartwell with North GA Credit Union, Exploration, Creativity, Learning, Ages 4 – 12, Lunch Provided, Tugaloo State Park, 1763 Tugaloo State Park Road, Lavonia, Free Event July 25, 12PM – 7PM, Christmas in July, Take Pics with Summer Santa, Enjoy Christmas Themed Sip & Treats, Central Roller Mills, 300 Madden Bridge Rd., Central July 25 – 26, All Day, The Charleston Charm Society, Peachtree Players Theatre, 830 N. Main St., Clayton, Tickets @aftontickets.com/peachtreeplayers July 26, 1PM, Paint Your Own Birdhouse and Make Your Own, Friendship Bracelet, Local Uptown, 301 N. McDuffie St., Anderson	July 27, 6:30PM, Homesteading Cooking Class, Kitchen Emporium, 418 N. Main St., Anderson July 27 – 31, 8AM – 12PM, Mayor Ronnie’s Summer Camp for Kids, Ages 6 to 12, \$10 Per Child, Flag Football, Soccer, Kickball, Arts & Crafts, Capacity: 200 campers, Registration ONLINE ONLY, www.Senecarecdept.recdesk.com/community/home, Shaver Recreation Complex, 698 W. S. 4th St., Seneca, 864-885-2700 July 28, 6:30AM – 10PM, Shenanigans Open Mic Outdoor Comedy Night, Local Uptown, 301 N. McDuffie St., Anderson July 30 – 31, All-Day, Small-Town Mystery Party, A Founders Day Fiasco, Mystery, Laughter, Suspense, Seats Are Limited, Pickens County Performing Arts Center, 314 W. Main St., Liberty July 31, 8PM – 10PM, Randall Bramblett Band, Accomplished By Wide Spread Panic’s Guitarist John Anderson, High Cotton, 57 Depot St., Hartwell July 31, 6PM – 7PM, Tribute to Neil Diamond, Featuring Steve Kelly & The Cherry Cherry Band, Tickets \$25, The Historic Ritz Theatre,166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa July 31, 7PM, Audrey Adams, Concert, Salute Wine Shoppe, 1620 Clemson Blvd., Seneca August 1, All Day, Blooms & Brew/Bouquet Bar, City Seed at the Station, 520 N. Murry, Anderson August 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 11AM – 3PM, Weekend Brunch, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson August 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 1PM & 6PM, Live Music, Big Water Marina, 320 Big Water Rd, Star August 1, 15, 2PM – 9PM, Pokémon Open Day, 118N. McDuffie St., Anderson, Elizabeth@visitanderson.com August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 5PM - 7PM, Singer Songwriter, Carolina Bauerhaus, 115 Federal St., Anderson August 2, 7PM, Sunset Yoga in the Park, 111 E. Whitney St., Anderson August 3,10, 17, 24, 31, 6PM - 9PM, Open Mic Night, Carolina Bauerhaus, 115 Federal St., Anderson August 3,10,10:30AM – 11AM, Mover & Shaker Storytime, Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson August 3, 6:30PM, Creating a Family History Project by Susan Opt & Rod Gibbsons, Anderson County Genealogical Society, Senior Solutions, 3420 Clemson Blvd #17, Anderson August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 7PM, Bingo, Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N. Main St., Anderson August 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:15AM – 3:19PM, Preschool Storytime, Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson August 4, 11AM – 12PM, Moms Morning Out, Cate’s, 211 S. Main St., Anderson August 4, 11, 5PM, Ping Pong Tournament, Golden Grove Farm & Brew, 115 Krim, Piedmont August 4, 7PM, Pub Cinema Night, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson August 5, All Day, New Comic Releases, Empire Games, 118 N. McDuffie St., Anderson August 5, 26, 9:15AM – 9:45AM, Toddler Storytime, Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson	August 6, 9PM – 10PM, WUGA Sugaray Rayford, High Cotton, 57 Depot St., Hartwell August 6, 6PM – 9PM, Build a Band Night, Carolina Bauernhaus, 115 Federal St., Anderson August 6, 6PM, Block Party, Carolina Wren Park, 111 E. Whitney Sr., Anderson August 6, 6PM, Free Pub Nation T-Shirt Night with Order of \$50 or More, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub., 116 W. Orr St., Anderson August 7, 14, 7PM, Live Music, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson August 7, 7:39PM, Ally Venable Band, Blues & Rock Vocalist & Guitarist Extraordinaire, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com August 7 - 8, TBA, Battle of the Bands, Acoustic Night, Artists Will Perform at Participating Downtown Venues to Kick off the Weekend, Fundraiser Top Artist from Each Venue Will Advance to Saturday, Stephens County High School High School Band, Toccoa August 7 – 8, TMA, Battle of the Bands, Doyle St., Toccoa August 8, 6:30PM, Spencer Heriga, Music, Keowee Brewing Company, 401E Main St., Seneca August 8, 7:30PM, Corey Smith, Suburban Drawl Tour 026, Singer Song Writer, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com August 12, 6PM, Jennifer Goree, Concert, 119 Ram Alley, Seneca August 12, 6PM, Jenny and Lee, Music, Vangeli’s Bristo, 119 Ram Cat Alley, Seneca August 14, 6PM – 7PM, Faith, Family & Country, Featuring Crystle Lee, Tickets \$20 - \$30, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa August 14, 6:30PM, Angela Easterling, Music, Keowee Brewing Company, 401 E. Main St., Seneca August 14, 7:30PM, Sweet Baby James, The #1 James Taylor Tribute 2026, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com August 15, 9AM – 1PM, Northeast GA Ag Expo, Agricultural Exhibits, Interactive Demonstrations, Live Animals, Pedal Tractors Ages 5 – 10, Vintage Farm Equipment, Delicious Food, Games, Give Aways, Hart County Charter System Agriscience Center, 1575 Bowman Hwy., Hartwell, FREE August 15, 7PM – 8PM, Dawson Scarborough & 17 South, Country & Western Show, Tickets \$20, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa August 15, 7:30PM – 9:30PM, Blues Jam, Big C & The High Cotton House Band, High Cotton, 57 Depot St., Hartwell August 15, 7:30PM, The Black Jacket Symphony, Def Leppard’s ‘Hysteria’. Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com August 20, 9PM – 10PM, WUGA Selwyn Birchwood, High Cotton, 57 Depot St., Hartwell August 21, 6PM – 10PM, VIP Doors, 6:30PM - VIP Performance, 6:45PM - GA Doors, 7:30PM - Show Begin, Don’t Be Cruel, The Ultimate Elvis Experience, Tickets \$35 - \$48, VIP Add on \$20 + Fees, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 155 W. Doyle St., Toccoa August 21 – 22, 7:30PM, 7 Bridges, The Ultimate Eagles Experience, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com
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Summer Events Around Hartwell Lake

Continued

August 22, 6PM – VIP Doors, 6:30PM – VIP Performance, 6:45PM – GA Doors, 7:30PM – Show Begins, To The Limit! The Ultimate Eagles Experience, Tickets \$35 - \$48, VIP ADD On \$20 +Fees, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	September 11, 7:30PM, Ashley McBryde, Into the Wild Tour, Grammy, ACM & CMA Award Winning Grand Ole Opry Member, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com	September 26, 7PM, Casino Night, Games, Great Company & Giving Back, Hors d’oeuvres, Black Jack , Porker Tables, Wine & Prizes, 7 Bridges, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com
August 22, 6PM, 7 Bridges, The Ultimate Eagles Experience, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com	September 11, 6PM – Doors, 7PM Show, Malpass Brothers, Fundraiser Toccoa – Stephens County Human Shelter, Tickets \$40, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 Doyle St., Toccoa	September 25, 5:30PM, Spencer Heringa, Music, Pendleton Brewing Company, 220 E. Main St., Pendleton
August 26 – 31, 7PM, Disney Frozen: The Broadway Musical, “Let it Go”, “Do You Want to Build a Snowman, Carolina Wren Park, 111 E. Whitner St., Anderson, FREE, 864-231-2232	September 11, 10AM – 2PM, Carolina Yards Mini Workshop, Clemson Extension, 12 Yard Carolina Yards Principles, Native Plants, Rain Barrels, Wildlife Enhancement, Drip Irrigation Installation, Composting & Mulch, Lunch Provided, Register 10 Days in Advance, 102 History Lane, Pendleton, Contact, Anaston Portor @ portera@clemson.edu or Steven O’Shields @oshiel13clemson.edu, FREE	September 27, 1:30PM – Doors, 2:30PM – Show, Queens of Country, Tribute to Rega & Barbara Mandrell, Tickets \$20 - \$30+ Fees, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa
August 28, 7PM – Doors, 8PM – Show, Simple Dreams, The Linda Ronstadt Experience, Tickets \$20, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	September 12, 7:30PM, Dirty Logic, The #1 Steely Dan Tribute Band, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com	October 1, 10:30AM – 11AM, Family Storytime, Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson
August 28, All Day, The Cleverlys, Blue Grass, Rock & Pop, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla	September 12 – 13, TBA, Toccoa Fest, Christian Music Festival, Doyle St., Toccoa	October 1, 9PM – 10PM, WUGA, High Cotton Music Hall, 57 Depot St., Hartwell
August 28, 7:30PM, The Cleverlys, Comedy & Music, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com	September 17, 6PM – Doors, 7PM – Show, Godspell, Toccoa Stephens County Community Theater, Tickets \$10, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	October 1, 8, 15, 22, 6PM, Free Pub National T-Shirt with Order of \$50 or More, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson
September 1, 9:15AM – 3:29PM, Preschool Storytime, Anderson County Main Library, 300 N. McDuffie St., Anderson	September 17, 12PM – 1PM, WUGA Mark Hummel, High Cotton, 57 Depot St., Hartwell	October 2, All Day, John Conlee, Country Music, Heartfelt Storytelling, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, Tickets @ walhallapac.com/wpac-has-gone-country/
September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5PM, Ping Pong Tournament, Golden Grove Farm & Brew, 115 Krim Rd.,	September 18, 19, 6PM – Door, 7PM – Show, Godspell, Toccoa Stephans County Community Theater, Tickets \$15, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	October 2, 7:30PM, John Conlee, American Country Music, Singer Song Writer, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com
September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 7PM, Pub Cinema Night, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson	September 18, 7:30PM, Harvest Moon, The Music of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com	October 2, 9, 16, 23, 7PM, Live Music, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson
September 2, 7, 16, 23, 30, 7PM, Trivia, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub., 116 W .Orr St., Anderson	September 19, 7:30PM – 9:30PM, Blues Jam, Big C & The High Cotton House Band, High Cotton, 57 Depot St., Hartwell	October 3, 6:30PM – Doors, 7:30PM Show, Landontalks & Mary Ryan Brown, Southern Night Comedy Tour, Tickets \$25 - \$55+ Fees, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa
September 3, 10, 17, 24, 6PM, Free Pub National T-Shirt Night with Order of \$50 or More, McGree’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson	September 19, 6PM, Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives, 5 Time Grammy Winner & Lifetime Achievement, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com	October 3, 3PM – Doors, 4PM – Show, Dinosaur Dimensions: Expedition! Tickets \$25, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa
September 4, 11, 18, 25, 7PM, Live Music, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub., 116 W. Orr St., Anderson	September 20, 10:30AM, The Regals, Refuge Baptist Church, 219 Refuge Church Road, Central	October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 11AM – 3PM, Weekend Bruch, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson
September 5 - 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, 11AM – 3PM, Weekend Brunch, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson	September 20, 2:30PM – Doors, 3:30PM – Show, Godspell, Toccoa Stephens County Community Theater, Tickets \$15, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	October 9, 6PM – Doors, 7PM – Show, Rock’n’roll Night With Jacob Tolliver, Tickets \$29 Per Ticket, \$49 Combo Ticket (Friday & Saturday Show), The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa
September 3, 9PM – 10PM, WUGA Albert Castaglia, High Cotton, 57 Depot St., Hartwell	September 20, 7PM, Jason Crabb, Christian Music Singer & Songwriter, 2 Grammy Awards With 22GMA Dover Awards, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, 864-638-5277, tickets-center.com	October 9, All Day, Hannah Harper, Country Music, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, Tickets walhallapac.com/wpac-has-gone-country
September 4, 7PM, The Embers, Heart & Soul, Rhythm & Blues, Feel Good Music, Doyle St., Toccoa	September 25, 6PM – VIP Doors, 6:30PM – VIP Performance, 6:45PM – GA Doors, 7:30PM – Show Begins, Jonny Cash Tribute, Folsom Prison, Tickets \$35 - \$48, VIP Add On \$20, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	October 10, 6PM – Doors, 7PM – Show, An Intimate Evening With Jacob Tolliver, Tickets \$29, The Historic Ritz Theater, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa
September 5, 10AM -2PM, 19th Annual Cars & Guitars Festival, 165 W. Franklin St., Downtown Hartwell, FREE	September 25, 5:30PM, Spencer Heringa, Music, Pendleton Brewing Company, 220 E. Main St., Pendleton	October 13, 20, 27, 7PM, Pub Cinema Night, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson
September 5, 7PM – Doors, 8PM – Show, Coat of Many Colors, Tribute To Dolly Parton, Featuring Holly Michelle, Tickets \$25, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	September 26, 3PM, Concert, Sam Burchfield, The Dead Ringers, The Soulfeathers, Rock the Ranch, 155 Chalie B. Farm Rd., Seneca	October 13, All Day, Sammy Kershaw, Country Music Singer, Walhalla Performing Arts Center, 101 E. N. Broad St., Walhalla, Tickets walhallapac.com/wpac-has-gone-country/
September 6, 6PM, RPG Campaign Nights, Dungeons & Dragons, Empire Games, 118 N. McDuffie St., Anderson	September 26, 6PM – VIP, 6:30PM - VIP Performance, 6:45PM – GA Doors, 7:30PM – Show Begins, Tickets \$35 - \$48, VIP Add On \$20+ Fees, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa	October 14, 21, 7PM, Trivia, McGee’s Scot-Irish Pub, 116 W. Orr St., Anderson
September 6, 7PM, Live Music, Luke Riley Smith, The Bradbury Bistro, 502 N. Main St., Anderson		October 16, 6M – Doors, 7PM – Show, The Sock Hops! Tickets \$10+ Fees, The Historic Ritz Theatre, 166 W. Doyle St., Toccoa
September 7, 14, 21, 28, 6PM – 9PM, Open Mic Night, Carolina Bauernhaus, 115 Federal St., Anderson		
September 7, 14, 21,28, 7PM, Bingo, Magnetic South Brewery, 516 N. Main St., Anderson		
September 10, 8PM, T. C. Costello, Concert, Two Rivers Public House, 415 E. Main St., Seneca		

Respect the Lake – continued from page 13

there,” Shore said. Life jackets are not optional when they are needed. For Shore, one of the most frustrating and preventable patterns in drowning calls is the absence of life jackets.

When asked whether his office had worked drownings where the victim was wearing a life jacket, Shore answered directly.

“No, unfortunately, we haven’t,” he said. “That’s a safety feature that’s always missing in the drownings that we work.”

He pointed specifically to the recent double drowning at Singing Pines, where two swimmers had life jackets available but were not wearing them.

“Both swimmers had life jackets and they were both sitting on the shore,” Shore said.

“So, just a bad decision on both of them.” Even the best swimmers need to have a life jacket in Lake Hartwell because of the dangers that lurk there in the waters.”

That detail is exactly what safety officials want the public to understand. A life jacket on the shore, in the boat or under a seat cannot help someone who is already in trouble.

The safest life jacket is the one already being worn. For boaters, swimmers, dock owners, renters, paddleboarders, kayakers and personal watercraft riders, the message is the same. A life jacket is not a sign of weakness. It is basic safety equipment.

Do not become the second victim. When someone is struggling in the water, the natural instinct is to jump in and help. But Shore warned that a drowning person may panic, grab, pull and unintentionally drag another

person under.

“When you panic, you’re grabbing and you’re pulling and you’re going to pull somebody else under the water,” Shore said. “That’s the danger.”



Instead of rushing into the water without training or flotation, Shore said bystanders should get help moving immediately and throw something buoyant to the person in distress.

“You need to throw them a life jacket or some sort of buoyancy and call for help,” Shore said.

That could mean a life jacket, rescue ring, rope, buoy, cushion, cooler, paddleboard, tube or anything that floats. The goal is to keep the person above water until trained responders can arrive.

rental owners have responsibilities. Shore also emphasized safety responsibilities for dock owners, lake homeowners and short-term rental owners.

“If they’re going to use their dock or their area of the lake, they certainly need to remind them that they need to have a life jacket, they need to have somebody there watching and having a safety person,” Shore said.

He also raised the issue of dock safety, especially where electricity is involved. “The owners of the dock need to make sure that the dock is safe,” Shore said. “Is there a ground fault? Is there power going to that dock? Is there a possibility someone could get electrocuted on that dock?”

Shore said the Corps of Engineers permits docks on Lake Hartwell and conducts safety checks during permit renewals, but the ultimate responsibility belongs to the homeowner.

“We’ve had deaths involving electrocution on docks before, so it is a safety issue that dock owners need to know about,” Shore said.

For families, visitors and rental guests, that means being aware of surroundings, knowing where life jackets are located, understanding the risks of swimming near docks and making sure children and non-swimmers are watched closely.

Alcohol, distraction and speed increase the danger. Shore compared boating safety to driving safety several times. The same basic rules apply: stay sober, stay alert and pay attention.

“You don’t need to be using alcohol and drugs,” Shore said. “You don’t need to be under the influence and just like driving a car, you need to be paying attention.”

He warned that distracted boating can lead to serious accidents, including striking people in the water, hitting other boats, running aground at high speeds or ejecting passengers. “Just so many things can happen,” Shore said. “You just got to be defensive out here on the lake.”

For personal watercraft riders, Shore also pointed to the importance of wearing a life jacket and using the safety key or engine cut-off device. “If you fall off of it, it turns the machine off,” Shore said.

A precious life can be lost in a moment. Shore’s final message was not complicated. It was personal. “Their life, and the life of their family members, are precious, and we certainly don’t want to lose that life. It can be taken away from us by a bad decision or in a moment’s notice.”

Lake Hartwell is beautiful, valuable and deeply woven into the lives of families across the region. But Shore’s warning is one every lake visitor should take seriously.

Respect the lake. Wear the life jacket. Know where you are. Stay sober. Watch the people around you. Keep flotation nearby. Call 911 immediately. Do not jump in without a plan. And never assume it cannot happen to you. Because on Lake Hartwell, one bad decision can change everything. ■

Shore said multiple agencies respond to lake emergencies in Anderson County, especially during high-volume periods such as July 4, Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Those may include the sheriff’s department, DNR, Corps of Engineers, fire, EMS and first responders. “You may have 50 to 100 responders coming for a drowning call in Anderson County.”

Know where you are before the emergency. On a lake as large as Hartwell, location can become one of the most important pieces of information in an emergency.

Shore said modern 911 technology can help dispatchers identify where a call is coming from, but callers still need to provide clear details whenever possible.

“It’s still good for them to know what buoy marker there may be if they’re out on a boat or out on the lake or what boat ramp the first responders need to respond to,” Shore said.

That means knowing the nearest ramp, road, cove, marina, dock number, buoy marker, bridge, landmark or GPS location. For short-term rentals, lake homes and docks, emergency information should be easy for guests to find.

Shore also said that if someone goes under, witnesses should keep eyes on the last known location.

“Try to keep someone there that can keep an eye on the spot so that you can lead the dive team and the firefighters and paramedics to that location,” Shore said.

He also urged callers to stay on the line with dispatch.

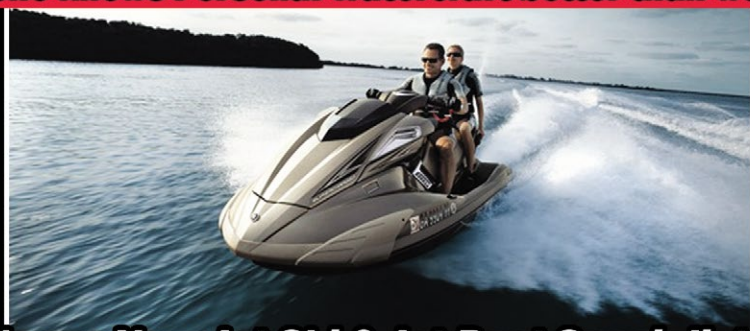
“The caller needs to stay on the line with dispatch so that they can update them on what they’re seeing or what they’re not seeing,” Shore said.

That information can be relayed to responding agencies and help coordinate the search or rescue effort. Dock owners and

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Observing an Increasingly Cashless Society

By Susan Woody Martin

When I was five years old, my kindergarten class took a walking field trip to a small country store. Our small left hands held tightly to a thick rope as we walked in a single file line following our teacher. Our tiny right hands clutched a penny with the anticipation and excitement of buying a piece of candy from the old mercantile. I do not recall the purpose of the field trip, however I do remember the feeling of accomplishment when I handed the clerk my shiny penny and received the aforementioned treat.

That first taste of achievement – carrying the penny while holding onto the rope and then exchanging the currency for an item – has stayed with me throughout the years. I especially remember that blissful morning each time I spot a shiny penny on the ground. I tend to find pennies in most every location I visit. Selfishly, I think “this penny was left just for me” as I smile, lean over, and pick it up. I realize the value of a penny is minor to many people, but honestly because of my attachment to my amazing memory, I feel a little sadness with the cessation of penny production.

Understanding that the cost of producing a penny exceeds its value helps ease my melancholy. Also, knowing existing pennies will continue to be in circulation encourages me in my fascination with the currency. Trepidation enters my mind when I think about the increasingly cashless society I experience when traveling.

I notice cashless transactions at arenas and airports – often without an attendant. I pay Uber drivers and market artisans through Cash App and Venmo. Most likely Hartwell Lake News readers

are noticing cashless transactions and the use of digital wallets as well.

Matt Schell, parks department manager with Anderson County, said he sees a hard pivot into cashless transactions everywhere.

“At stadium and arena events, I see all cashless transactions and even kiosks to place orders; even on the Clemson University campus at the student union,” he said.

“Even at high school athletic games, I see mostly cashless at the gate.”

Schell mentioned a combination of digital wallets and cash transactions at farmers’ markets and fishing tournaments.

“At our fishing tournaments, we see food trucks and merchandise vendors,” he said. “All are equipped for both cash and cashless.”

“Produce growers primarily operate under the ‘cash is king’ concept and very few are set up for cashless purchases. Crafters on the other hand are equipped to accept both.”

Schell said travelers exploring local markets and events should have at least two payment options available to make transactions.

Gerald P. Dwyer, Emeritus Professor of Economics and BB&T Scholar at Clemson University, paints a broader evaluation of this modern payment shift.

“The digital revolution has made it less expensive to pay by a debit card than with cash,” he said.

“With the Internet, virtually every gas station and store in the country can receive funds almost instantly from a customer’s bank. It is not necessary to carry around cash.”

continued on page 18



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Observing an Increasingly Cashless Society – continued from page 17

Instead, Dwyer said people carry immediate access to their checking accounts.

“The Internet makes it easy for a hotel or other venue to verify that the transaction will go through, meaning the funds are available in the checking account and the credit card has enough available credit for the transaction.”

From a consumer behavior viewpoint, Dwyer said consumers using digital wallets and credit cards are probably less aware of the sums of money paid than they would be using cash.

“I think a \$100 bill has a bigger impact than a sum of \$100 on a piece of paper,” he said, “both for the recipient and the giver of the funds.”

With that in mind, Dwyer said cash is more useful in some transactions.

“Say a private person is buying a car from

another individual,” he said. “For peer-to-peer transactions, cash or a cashier’s check is the only way to be sure the funds are good. Most of us don’t have Visa or MasterCard merchant accounts. While digital currencies, such as Bitcoin and stablecoins such as USDC are a way to accomplish the same thing as cash, they are not widely used.”

Dwyer said our society is a long way from widespread adoption of cryptocurrencies.

As I continue to learn and accept cryptocurrencies, digital wallets, and an increasingly cashless society, I will cherish my memory of thinking a penny was treasure in my little five-year-old hand. Next time I find a shiny penny on the ground, I will do what I usually do. Smile, lean over, pick it up, and place it in my coin jar. ■

The History of the Pledge of Allegiance: A Symbol of American Unity

For more than 130 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has been a familiar part of American life. It is recited in schools, at government meetings, veterans’ ceremonies, and community events across the country. While most Americans know the pledge by heart, many are unaware of its rich history and how it has evolved over time. The story of the Pledge of Allegiance reflects America’s growth as a nation and its enduring commitment to the ideals of unity, liberty, and justice.

The pledge was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister and author from New York. At the time, Bellamy was working for The Youth’s Companion, a popular family magazine that was helping organize a nationwide celebration

marking the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the Americas. Bellamy was asked to write a brief statement that schoolchildren could recite during flag-raising ceremonies. His original version read: “I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” On October 12, 1892, millions of students across the United States recited those words during Columbus Day celebrations, introducing what would become one of the nation’s most recognized expressions of patriotism.

As America welcomed millions of immigrants in the early 20th century, questions arose about

continued on page 19

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The History of the Pledge of Allegiance – continued from page 18

the wording "my Flag," which some believed could be confusing for new citizens. To eliminate any uncertainty, the National Flag Conference revised the pledge in 1923, replacing "my Flag" with "the Flag of the United States." A year later, the wording was refined again to "the Flag of the United States of America," creating the familiar opening used today. These changes helped reinforce that the pledge honored the American flag and the nation it represents.

During World War II, expressions of national unity became especially important. In 1942, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance as the nation's formal pledge and established guidelines for its recitation. Americans were instructed to stand, face the flag, remove any hats, and place the right hand over the heart. These customs remain in practice today and serve as a sign of respect for the flag and the principles it symbolizes.

One of the most significant changes occurred in 1954 during the Cold War. As the United States sought to distinguish itself from the officially atheistic Soviet Union, Congress approved adding the words "under God" after "one nation." President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation into law on Flag Day, June 14, 1954. The pledge has remained unchanged since then: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Although the pledge is widely respected, participation has never been mandatory. In the landmark 1943 Supreme Court case *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, the Court ruled that public school students cannot be compelled

to recite the pledge or salute the flag if doing so violates their sincerely held beliefs. The decision reaffirmed one of the nation's core constitutional principles- that freedom of speech also includes the freedom not to speak. The ruling remains an important reminder that patriotism and individual liberty go hand in hand.

Today, the Pledge of Allegiance continues to unite Americans during civic celebrations, school assemblies, Memorial Day observances, Veterans Day ceremonies, Flag Day events, and Fourth of July celebrations. For many, the familiar words are more than a routine recitation; they are a reminder of the sacrifices made by generations of service members and citizens who have worked to preserve the freedoms enjoyed today. The pledge also serves as a reflection of the nation's highest aspirations. Phrases such as "one nation, indivisible" emphasize the importance of remaining united despite differences, while "liberty and justice for all" expresses the continuing goal of equal opportunity and fairness under the law.

More than a century after Francis Bellamy first penned the pledge, its words remain woven into the fabric of American life. While perspectives on its history and wording have evolved, the pledge continues to symbolize a shared commitment to the values upon which the nation was founded. Whether recited by students in a classroom, veterans gathered at a memorial, or citizens attending a local community event around Lake Hartwell, the Pledge of Allegiance reminds us that America's greatest strength has always been its people and their ongoing pursuit of liberty, unity, and justice for all. ■



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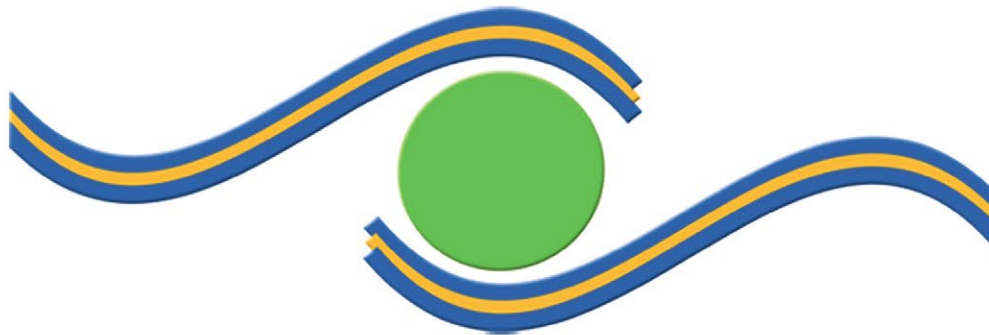
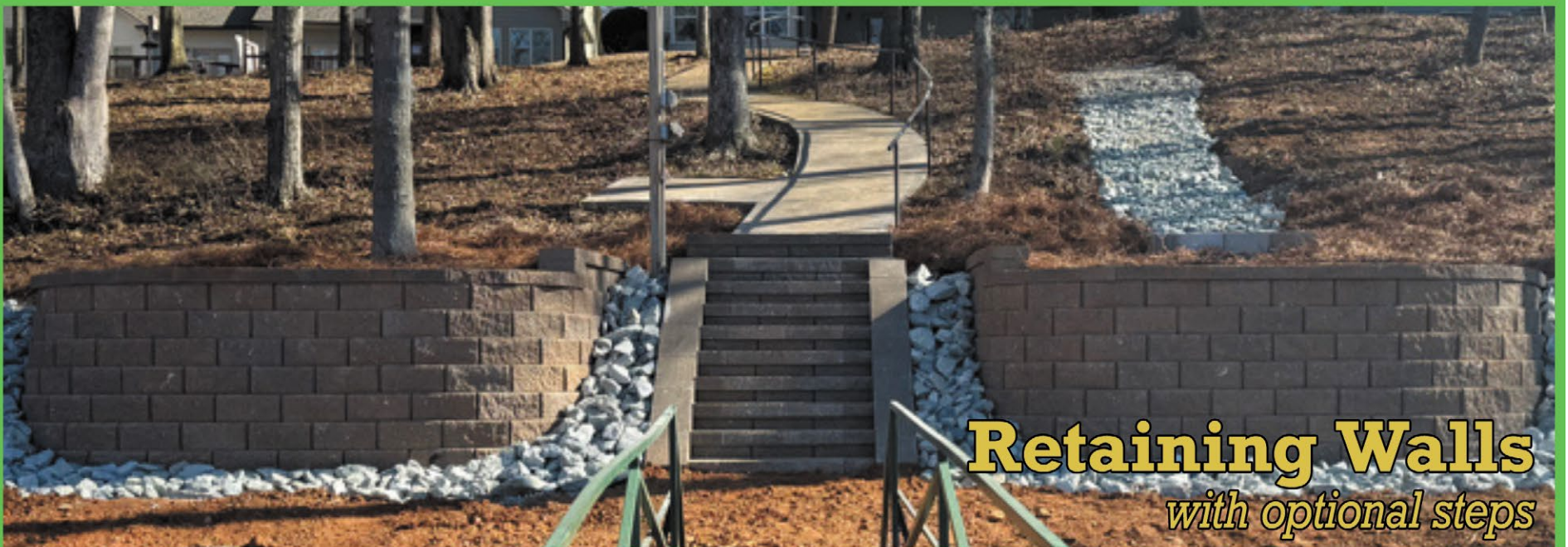
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