

## First Juneteenth parade seeks participants

BY KENNA COE  
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June 19 is a federal holiday that celebrates freedom from slavery

For the first time in Mount Pleasant, a Juneteenth parade and festival will commemorate the freedom of Black people from slavery. Organizers of the community-wide event

are looking for groups to participate in the parade.

“My vision for the Juneteenth parade is to celebrate a day that was given to us

nationally because of the freedom of my people out of slavery,” said Barbara Jackson, who is a member of the Seven Mile Community Ac-

tion Group for Encouragement (CAGE) that is organizing the event.

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law making June 19 a federal holiday. Juneteenth specifically observes the day

enslaved people in Galveston, Texas heard about their freedom two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The national holiday is for all Americans, said Biden when he established the national holiday last year, and it seeks to celebrate Black culture,

while acknowledging the hardships and racism faced from the international slave trade to today.

“To actually celebrate this thing for the first time, I feel so excited about it. I want the

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## Why is there extra white space?

BY KENNA COE  
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As you open up a crisp copy of the Moultrie News this week, you might notice a slight difference. Did the extra white space in the margins catch your eye or were you too enthralled with this week's community news that you didn't even notice? For transparency's sake, the Moultrie News wants to let you know about an upcoming paper size change.

Evening Post Publishing, Inc., the parent company that oversees The Post and Courier, several weekly papers in the state and other publications, purchased a new printing press from Sweden. The printing press took a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean and is being reassembled at its new location in North Charleston.

While the printing press isn't ready to operate yet, all of the newspapers are preparing for the change. The new press will print on narrower paper. The width of the page will go from 10.625 inches to 10 inches. The font size will stay the same, so don't worry about finding your extra strength reading glasses. The 10-inch page results in about a paragraph less of copy on each page.

For the next several months, the Moultrie News will continue printing on the current paper size, but we adjusted our design to reflect the 10 inch-paper so that all of the details are in place for when the new press starts rolling this fall. That is why you'll see some extra white space in the margin.

The Moultrie News will always keep readers updated on changes that affect the newspaper they open up each week. As always, reach out to Editor Kenna Coe at editor@moultrienews.com with any questions.

## 'Going for gold' at Special Olympics



KENNA COE/STAFF

Erin Patterson practices backstroke, which is one of the events she will be swimming at the Special Olympics USA Games in June.

BY KENNA COE  
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Each day at the Park West pool in Mount Pleasant, Erin Patterson swims lap after lap with one goal in mind: competing at the Special Olympics USA Games in June. With her mom at the end of the pool coaching her through drills, Patterson improves her backstroke and freestyle in preparation for the national competition.

“I've been wanting this for a really long time,” said Patterson. “I've watched the Special Olympics and the regular Olympics and I told myself one day I'm gonna be there.”

For the first time since the pandemic, the USA Games invites Special Olympics athletes from across the country to compete in Orlando. Special Olympics provides opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to play their sport at a high level alongside supportive coaches and teammates.

Many of the Special Olympics athletes in Mount Pleasant participate in the recreation department's therapeutic recreation programs that are specialized for people with intellectual disabilities. At the USA Games, there will be over a dozen athletes from Mount Pleasant representing South Carolina on a national stage. For many athletes,

this is their first opportunity to compete in the USA Games, including Patterson.

“I'm so proud of her,” said Patterson's mom, Sandi Patterson. “Just how she's just grabbed it and run forward with it ... She said this was her dream and she's gonna work hard for it.”

Erin Patterson didn't find out about her spot in the USA Games until later than most athletes because she took the place of a swimmer who was unable to go due to a medical concern. To fill the spot, representatives from Special Olympics looked for a

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Please see Page A5 for Tales of Valor about a female veteran who promotes mental health



## Attainable workforce housing adds 18 townhomes

BY ANNA SHARPE  
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Mount Pleasant's first attainable housing complex, Gregorie Ferry Towns, ushered in its second phase of construction with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 17.

The ceremony included remarks from Mount Pleasant Mayor Will Haynie, retired town council member Thomasena Stokes-Marshall and a

dedication of a magnolia tree to Kelly Price, a board member of Housing for All Mount Pleasant who passed away in 2020.

Gregorie Ferry Towns at 1240 Winoing Way is a response to the rising housing costs in Mount Pleasant that prevent a majority of the local workforce from living in the town. Seventy percent of Mount Pleasant's workforce lives outside of town limits, according to the nonprofit Housing for All Mount Pleasant.

“(We) want to be a community where our first responders who are putting their life on the line every day for us can afford to live

here and raise their children in the various schools and playgrounds that they are protecting. I think that's a worthy goal for the town of Mount Pleasant,” Haynie said.

Kendall Grumbles is one of the first homeowners in Gregorie Ferry Towns. A year and a half ago she was living in a one bedroom, 800-square-foot apartment and paying \$1,200 a month in rent. Now, she has a home office and an extra bedroom, all for the same cost of her previous rent.

“It was important to me to have a space that represents

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KENNA COE/STAFF

Thomasena Stokes-Marshall presents plaques to Tammy Wilson and Tony Berry for spearheading the Gregorie Ferry Towns project.



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