

Paws on Parade
at county's new
animal shelter

TLN WEEKEND, 1B



IL's Csuhta
silent leader
in trenches

SPORTS, 5A



WEEKEND EDITION

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75 CENTS

S.C. top court says no to governor

Won't allow \$32M in federal relief to be used for private school grants

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COLUMBIA – The S.C. Supreme Court has struck down Gov. Henry McMaster's attempt to spend \$32 million in federal coronavirus aid on grants to help parents of K-12

private school students pay tuition costs.

In a unanimous 5-0 vote Wednesday, the justices determined that the governor's allocation constitutes the use of public money for the benefit of private education and violates the S.C. Constitution.

"We hold the Governor's decision constitutes the use of public funds for the direct benefit of private educational institutions within the meaning of, and prohibited by Article XI, Section 4 of the South Carolina Constitution," said the official ruling on the S.C. Supreme

Court website.

SAFE Grants

McMaster announced the Safe Access to Flexible Education Grants program, or SAFE in July. The program, he said, would provide about 5,000 scholarships or one-time

grants to help the families of private school students pay tuition costs.

The money – up to \$6,500 per student – would be needs-based. To qualify for SAFE, a student must be from a household with an adjusted gross income of 300% or less of the federal poverty level.

But to come up with the See **GRANTS** | Page 3A

Scarecrows on Main

CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF
Oct. 5-10th
7PM
@ AJ State Park

SEE LAN In D

Photos by **ERIC ROWELL**
For The Lancaster News

Voting in the city of Lancaster's annual Scarecrows on Main contest is in full swing. Here are a few of this year's entries. At left, Community Playhouse of Lancaster County's werewolf. At right, Nutramax Laboratories' product-themed entry. Below, "Once Upon A Time" by Lancaster County First Steps. Below right, Wonder Woman by the Order of the Eastern Star, Antioch 291.

School board to hear options on eventual student return

Mac Banks

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The Lancaster County school board will hear from district officials at their next meeting Oct. 20, about possible options for moving forward in regards to returning to school in a more normal way.

District Superintendent Jonathan Phipps wouldn't comment on what those options might be until after the Oct. 20 meeting.

Board chairman Bobby Parker said he isn't sure if a vote will be taken on any recommendation from the district at that meeting, but is keeping an open mind on what might be presented.

"This is important," he said. "This is a hot topic."

Parker also said he is unsure if now is a good time to return to a more normal schedule.

"Right now, I think it is a bad time," he said. "But we are going to talk about it."

One reason Parker said he is hesitant about returning to a full schedule is because of the number of cases of the coronavirus that are still popping up in the county.

According to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Lancaster County School District has fewer than 30 cases of COVID-19 between students and staff within the district.

The district currently follows all guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and DHEC when it comes to safety protocols to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The district is using an A/B schedule for students for this fall semester. The district also has about 30 percent of its students going online only for their classes.

Parker said he feels the current plan the district is using is best for now.

"I think we should go with the See **SCHOOLS** | Page 2A

Norman headlines GOP fundraiser

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VAN WYCK – U.S. House Rep. Ralph Norman headlined a Republican fundraising event Thursday evening at The Ivy Place in Van Wyck.

Norman was one of four local Republican politicians or candidates to attend the event held by the Indian Land Republican Women's Club, Indian Land Republicans, Sun City Carolina Lakes Republicans and the Lancaster County Republican Party.

Besides Norman, the event



Johnson



McCall



McGarry



Newton

featured local Republican National Committee Chairman Glenn McCall, S.C. House District 45 Rep. Brandon Newton, and candidates Michael Johnson and Sandy McGarry.

Johnson is running for S.C. Senate District 16 against

Democrat Ram Mammadov, and McGarry is running for S.C. House District 44 against Democrat Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell.

Norman, who is running to keep his U.S. House seat See **NORMAN** | Page 2A



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Ralph Norman addresses Republicans gathered at The Ivy Place on Thursday night. Along with the Lancaster County GOP, Republican clubs from Indian Land and Sun City Carolina Lakes attended.

168th year, No. 82
Two sections, 14 pages



Saturday Weather

Cloudy with a 60% chance of showers

Overnight: Cloudy with a 60% chance of showers becoming thunderstorms



High: 77
Low: 67

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Paving to start Monday on S.C. 160