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and Abbeville Medium

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## Spring Festival is for kids, too

**By Henry E. Green** What would the Spring Festival be without kids?

Kids eating ice cream.

Kids wearing funny hats. Kids dancing to the music.

Thus, it is no surprise that the festival, which this year will be held Thursday, May 4 through Saturday, May 6, has something very special for the little ones.

"Kidzone is a FREE kids event on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to noon on North Main Street presented by Harvest Christian Ministries." Abbeville said Citv of Community Development Director Austin Walker.

"This is the second year we are presenting this program at the festival. Last year was a huge success. Not every kid can or even wants to ride the

amusement rides, so we wanted to make sure we were reaching every kid! This free event within our festival does just that.

The Kidzone will feature community tents, interactive activities, make and takes, giveaways, and other good things.

"As a preview, we will have Busy Bee's Preschool hosting a 'Dino Dig,' Due West Robotics doing demonstrations, and First Steps handing out books. More than ten community entities will be represented and that's just the tip of the iceberg."

Highlighting this year's program is a partnership with the County and Dolly Parton Imagination Libraries.

"Our focus is to get kids reading and signed up for several free programs in our area," Walker went on to say. "The theme of this year's summer reading program is 'all together now.' With this we have decided to feature our Chef Ambassador Erica McCier as she ties it all together for us."

McCier will be providing a live cooking demonstration at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. with samples and story time. She will be cooking a veggie stir fry, talking about farm to table foods, and reading "I Can't Eat This Stuff" by

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208 South Main St. Abbeville, SC 29620 Liz Fletcher.

"Truly it's going to be a program people of all ages are going to want to be a part of," Walker continued. We will also be bringing back our Touch-a-Truck alley with safety vehicles like police and fire trucks."



Staff photo by Henry E. Green



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Our utility serves approximately 3,700 residential and commercial customers with electric, water, sewer and sanitation services in the Abbeville, SC area.



## A B B E VILLE O P E R A H O U S E

## 2023 Abbeville Opera House Season



**Comedian Shelly Belly** SATURDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM

Parading Crazy on the Porch Musical SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> FRIDAY – SATURDAY 7:30 PM SUNDAY – 3:00 PM

The Karens Comedy Show SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th 7:30 PM **Derby Girls: The Musical** MAY 26<sup>тн</sup> – 28<sup>тн</sup> FRIDAY – SATURDAY 7:30 PM SUNDAY 3:00 PM

Iron Horse Bluegrass SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd 7:30 PM

Chautauqua History Comes Alive James Armistead Lafayette THURSDAY, JUNE 15<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM

> Scarab: The Journey Experience SATURDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM

Freebird: The Ultimate Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute SATURDAY, AUGUST 19th 7:30 PM

Chi-Town Chicago Tribune SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM

Michael Sweet: The Voice of Stryper Solo & Acoustic SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th 7:30 PM

Guy Penrod SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup> 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

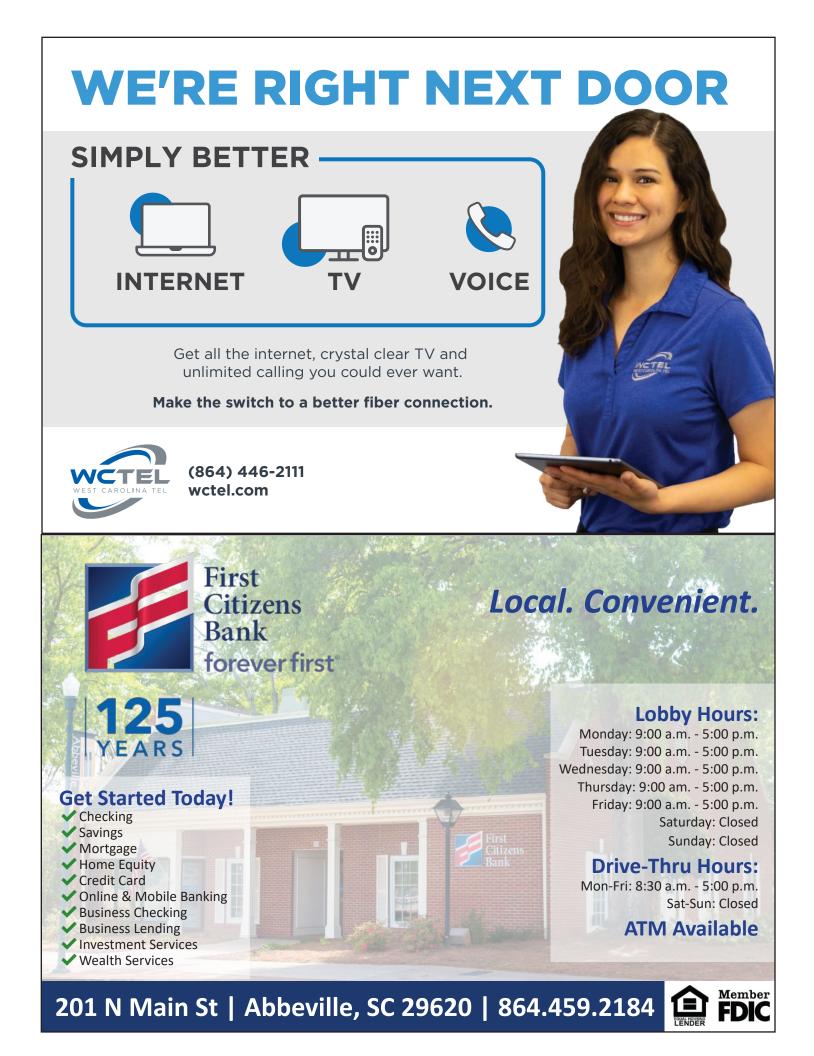
#### 2024 shows to be announced soon!

For more information or to buy tickets, visit our website <u>www.abbevillecitysc.com</u> Visit us on Facebook: @abbevilleoperahouse

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SCAN ME



### **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

#### ABBEVILLE COUNTY'S The Frezz and Banner and Abbeville Medium

#### Abbeville's Summer Resort at Parson's Mountain, August 15, 1883

"About fifty or sixty of our citizens are summering at Little [Parson's] Mountain, some seven miles distant from Abbeville C. H.

The mineral waters at that place are believed to work wonders in giving tone and vigor to the stomach, and hence the rejuvenating of wearied and sick people. Among those of our people who are now at that place are Mrs. Coogler and family, Dr. E. L. Wilson and family, Mrs. White, Mrs. Branch, Mr. J. B. Rogers and family, Mr. W. T. McDonald and family, Mr. George W. Syfan and family, Mrs. C. V. Hammond and family, Mr. J. Allen Ramey and family, Mr. William McAllister and family, Mrs. William Miller and family, Mrs. Sondley and son, Mr. John McCullough, Miss Annie Boozer of Columbia, Miss Fannie Hammond and her mother.

Many other of our citizens would have gone if houses

could have been had. Mr. A. M. Hill has returned, very much improved in health. Mrs. McDonald has been greatly benefited. Mr. Rogers is enthusiastic in his praises of the beneficial effects of the water.

Seven houses have been built about the spring, and all of them are occupied to their full capacity, and visitors spend a delightful time. At night, music, song, and dancing make up a part of the amusement at Little Mountain.

The lodgers at Little Mountain are supplied with vegetables and fowls by the people in the vicinity, who bring their eatables to the place for sale.

The medicinal qualities of the water at Little Mountain have attracted the attention of our medical men, some of whom send vessels daily for rations of the healing water, and some of our business men are daily drinkers from that fountain.

Last Saturday, Mr. G. W. Syfan made a Sunday School address to the children, which was greatly enjoyed by both old and young.

One week later, a correspondent from "Our Mountain Home" wrote, "We devote several hours of each day to vocal and instrumental music, dancing, reading, visiting, talking together, sporting, and occasionally a ramble through the forest."







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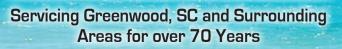


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#### ABBEVILLE SPRING FESTIVAL

MAY 4<sup>th</sup> (Evening) MAY 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### www.abbevillecitysc.com

5:30 pm – 10:30 pm 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm 8:30 pm – 10:30 pm

#### Thursday, May 4th

Food Vendor Hours Amusement Rides Pickens Creek (Main Stage) Second Time Around (Main Stage)

5:30 pm – 10:00 pm 5:30 pm – 10:30 pm 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm 8:30 pm – 10:30 pm Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> Amusement Rides Food Vendor Hours The Lint Heads (Main Stage) The Mighty Kicks (Main Stage)

#### Spring Festival One Day Ride Wristbands

SKIP THE LINE - buy ahead of time! (Did we mention you also save \$15 when buying in advance?)

Go to www.abbevillecitysc.com/277/Spring-Festival-Schedule and scroll to the bottom of the page.

\*\*\*New this Year: One Day Wristbands can work on Thursday, Friday, OR Saturday!

Once your wristband is secured, make a note to swing by the ADMIN tent at Spring Festival to pick up your wristband & SKIP THE LINE!

Pre-sale ends Thursday, May 4th at 4 p.m., and price increases to \$30.

Individual tickets can be purchased for riding rides in advance at Abbeville City Hall starting May 2nd if you don't want a wristband, but still want to skip the line!

Rides will operate from 5:30 - 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. on Saturday. See more of the Festival schedule at <u>abbevillecitysc.com</u>

## Saturday, May 6th

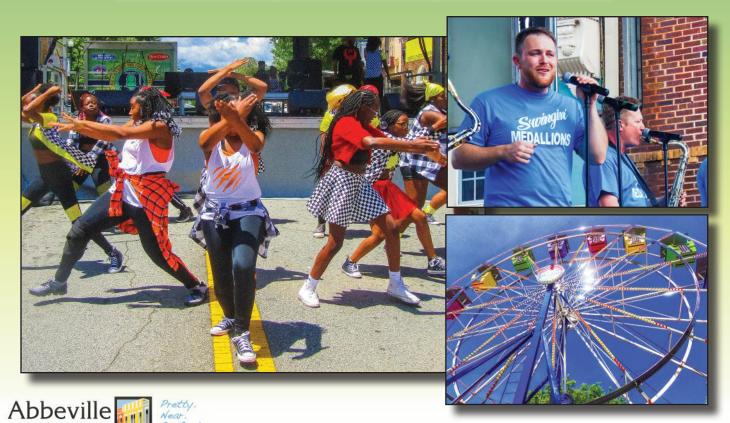
9:00 am – 11:00 am

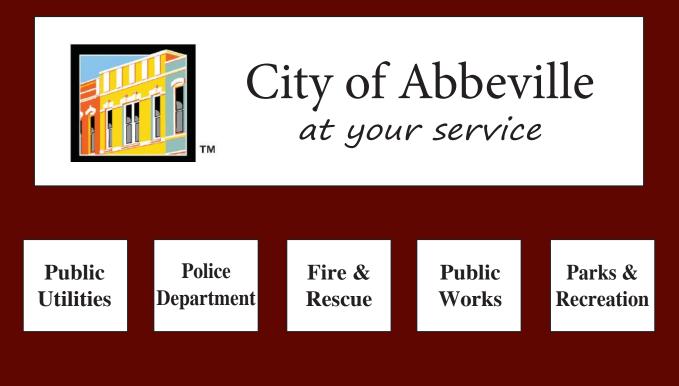
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

10:00 am - Until 11:00 am - 10:00 pm 11:00 am - 10:30 pm 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm **Cooking Demonstration with Erica** McCier of Indigenous Underground Kidzone on Washington (Behind the Main Stage) Wheels of Time Classic Car Show (North Main Street & First Citizen Parking Lot) **Donut Eating Contest (Two Brews) Amusement Rides Food Vendor Hours** Nicole Quinn (Acoustic Stage on Trinity St.) Pope & Bert (Main Stage) Marty Cann (Acoustic Stage) Ben Bagwell (Acoustic Stage) Super 60s (Main Stage) Tracie & Byron (Acoustic Stage) The Danny Dawson Band (Main Stage)

To see the full schedule of events, go to www.abbevillecitysc.com/277/Spring-Festival-Schedule





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## Every picture tells a story

#### By Henry E. Green

Abbeville is full of treasures -- some of them hidden, some of them not.

Among those in plain view are the paintings by Wilbur G. Kurtz at the Abbeville County Chamber of Commerce/ Welcome Center.

Together, they tell much of the history of the Abbeville community.

According to a brochure from the Chamber, the paintings were given to the City of Abbeville, along with the building that houses the Welcome Center and the Abbeville County Chamber of Commerce, by NationsBank when it became Bank of America and moved out of the building.

The artist, the late Wilbur George Kurtz, was born in Illinois in 1882. Fascinated by the Civil War, he illustrated for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution in the early 1930s, created murals for the New York World's Fair in 1939, and was named technical advisor for "Gone with the Wind."

The first painting depicts General Andrew Pickens, and the second the first organized mass meeting for secession.

John C. Calhoun is featured in the third painting, and the fourth features a council of war involving Confederate President Jefferson Davis with his advisors, and the last shows Abbeville after the Civil War.

This last painting depicts Abbeville during Reconstruction, and features three men -- W. Joel Smith, G. A. Visanska, and L. W. White -- businessmen who were prominent in the process of reinvigorating Abbeville following the Civil War.

As for Pickens, the general is known as one of the main Patriot commanders in South Carolina during the American Revolution, along with Thomas Sumter and Francis Marion.

Instrumental in the development of the Abbeville community, where he owned considerable amounts of land, Pickens has achieved new prominence as the state anticipates the celebration

of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

C a l h o u n , m e a n w h i l e , served as a South Carolina State Representative, U.S. Congressman, Secretary of War, Vice President, and U.S. Senator and Secretary of State, according to the brochure.

The meeting involving Jefferson Davis was held on May 2,1865, at the Burt Stark Mansion, in the closing days of the Civil War.

"The historic Wilbur Kurtz paintings do draw a crowd of tourists," Anna LaGrone, the Chamber director, said of the paintings, which date from 1922.

"People seem most taken by the one depicting the Reconstruction era."



Wilbur Kurtz, 1905, www.facebook.com/southernmuseum



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## **Ongoing restoration at the Generals' House**



comprised of bricks from the 1880s A b b e ville Dispensary that was torn down on Pinckney Street. R o g e r s

has served on the Abbeville County Historical Society

#### By Amanda Smith

Wind billowed through magnolia trees on a bright and breezy April afternoon, partially obscuring the view of a venerable Queen Anne style Victorian home at 305 North Main Street, also known as the McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy House.

The hidden treasure is the headquarters of the Abbeville County Historical Society, and board member, curator, grant writer, and acquisitions chair Bill Rogers organized recent renovations for the roof and chimneys.

"We spent about \$150,000 on the roof and chimneys last summer," Rogers said. "I did that in three grants. The roof was leaking, and the chimneys were falling down onto the roof and making holes, causing it to leak more."

According to Rogers, the chimneys had likely been renovated in the 1940s.

"They were very utilitarian looking and flat and just heinous," Rogers said. "What we did was, using a 1910 or 1909 photo, we reworked all the chimneys the way they were with crosses in them.

In order to do that, we had to get a structural engineer. ... His exact words were, 'The crosses in the chimneys will make 'em strong, just like a cross will make you stronger,' and it has something to do with the recessing. ... We could tell by the old photographs that there were crosses in the chimneys."

The new chimneys, Rogers said, are

board for 32 years.

One of the first and major renovations, Rogers said, was the front porch. "We were granted \$100,000 for the front porch 25 years ago," he said. "We had to put steel beams under it because it's weight bearing; it's a public building now."

Another significant renovation to the exterior of the house is painting the building in its original Victorian-era colors.

"These are the original colors," Rogers said. "I did a grant for a paint analysis. The National Historic Preservation came out and they took over 200 swatches."

Built in 1887 and completed in 1888, the house was designed by G. L.

Norman out of Atlanta. It was commissioned by Confederate Brigadier General Samuel McGowan after а fire destroyed the Gothic Revival mansion he purchased from the widow of Lt. Colonel James M. Perrin, CSA, who died at the Battle of



Chancellorsville during the Civil War. The existing house is built on top of the surviving brick foundation, which did not burn.

The last owner to reside in the house was WWII General William E. Barksdale who sold the property to his nephew, J. D. Bundy of Monroe, N.C.

Bundy, in turn, gave the home to the Society in December of 1989.

Tours of the Generals' Home will be available on Saturday during the Spring Festival from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Visitors will be able to experience a plethora of history when they visit, including period correct furniture, a railroad museum, an Abbeville Rough House memorabilia poolroom, an apothecary room with memorabilia from Bell's Pharmacy in Due West, Jenny B. Prince memorabilia, original Wilbur Kurtz drawings, military rooms, three servants' quarters in the back of the property, and the fully restored Caboose 5759.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students, and free for children under 12.

For more information about Abbeville's best kept secret, visit <u>www.</u> <u>abbevillecountyhistoricalsociety.org</u> or call (864) 378-0772.

If you're lucky, you may see the ghosts of General McGowan, an unknown man, and a short-haired dog.

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