

DAVIS Continued from Front

what he did came from his heart. His death is Lee County's loss. I was devastated when I heard about it."

Rev. Tommy Wilkes, a Salkehatchie director, spoke at Davis' funeral Sunday, recalling a man who loved life and found his true calling in helping others.

"Frank affected a lot of people. He sowed the seeds of love. They grew, expanded and that love came back to him; just look around at how many people are here to honor his memory today," Wilkes said.

Wilkes started working with Davis on Salkehatchie projects seven years ago. "Frank was my righthand man and he was a 'yes' man," Wilkes said. "No matter what I asked him, it was always 'Yes.' He always came through; Frank was dependable, reliable and he loved people. Salkehatchie was part of who he was and it's going to be hard to continue without Frank."

Bishopville Post Office clerk Genovia Hickmon said she will miss Davis' sense of humor. "He came in nearly every day and we'd joke around," she said. "We were going to have a tennis match and the winner was going to color and style the other's hair. I just can't believe he's gone. But our loss is heaven's gain."

The son of Marvin Harth Davis and Emily Faye Rush Davis, Frank grew up in Norway, SC and was a 1979 graduate of Clemson University.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the South Carolina Cotton Museum, Inc. Ronnie Williams said that's how Davis also got involved with cooking for the museum's annual Game Supper.

"Frank was our 'venison man.' He had a great recipe for venison stew and cooked it for all three suppers we've had," Williams said. "Frank kept himself stretched out; he was always busy. It's true what they say: 'If you want something to get done, ask a busy man.' Frank always had a bubbly personality. He was never in a bad mood and was always easy to work with."

Davis had been with the Farm Service Agency, USDA, since 1986, serving as county executive director for Lee County.

Judy Beasley worked with Davis for 12 years. She said the county's farmers filled the FSA offices Friday, expressing condolences. "Frank was good for Lee County and the farmers," Beasley said. "He was good to everybody; he kept us going. We're going to miss him."

Laurie C. Lawson is the state executive director of FSA for USDA. He called Davis "a wonderful fellow, always personable and congenial. Wanting to help was his middle name. Frank was so pleasant to be around. And it didn't hurt that we both loved Clemson."

Davis was an active member of Bethlehem United Methodist Church where he served as treasurer of his Sunday school class, and was a member of the church choir.

Katherine Woodham said Davis has been nominated posthumously for two awards for his missions work.

Davis is survived by his wife, Jeanie; and daughters, Corrie Davis of Pawleys Island and Aileen T. "Ali" Davis of Bishopville.

Funeral service were held Sunday at Bethlehem United Methodist Church. Burial was in Bethlehem United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Bethlehem United Methodist Church choir, PO Box 167, Bishopville, SC 29010 or to the Lee County Salkehatchie, PO Box 167, Bishopville, SC 29010.

Elderly Woodrow woman dies in fire

An 82-year-old Woodrow woman lost her life in a house fire Friday afternoon. Annie Early, of 37 Orange St., died at Tuomey Regional Medical Center about 4 p.m. Friday, according to Lee County Coroner Alford Elmore.

An autopsy was performed over the weekend at Newberry Pathology Associates.

Lee County Sheriff Daniel Simon said SLED is assisting in the investigation of the fire.

The cause of the fire is unknown, Simon said, but authorities believe it may have been an accidental electrical fire.

"But it's still early in the investigation," Simon said.

Firefighters with the Lee County Fire Department responded to the call around 1:30 p.m., according to Capt. Brandon Holloman of the Lee County Fire Department.

Holloman said no one else was in the house at the time of the fire.

Police Blotter

The Bishopville Police Department reported the following recent activity.

Reports from the BPD were unavailable this week.

The Lee County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity last week.

A 38-year-old Maple Drive man was served with a warrant on Feb. 7.

A 41-year-old Academy Road woman was charged with pedestrian under the influence on Feb. 12 after officers received a call about a woman causing trouble at a residence on Dogwood Road.

An 18-year-old Sambo Road woman was charged with disorderly conduct on Feb. 13 after she caused a scene at a local restaurant. When the responding officer asked the subject to leave the restaurant, the subject started yelling obscenities as she was leaving and was placed under arrest.

• A Jamestown Road woman reported on Feb. 15 that someone put a substance in her gas tank after she and her ex-boyfriend got into an argument.

• A Price Lane woman reported on Feb. 9 that she

has been receiving threatening calls from a man about a car she sold him.

• A Kennington Crossing man reported on Feb. 15 that a woman whose property abuts his has been trespassing, raking pine straw off his property. The victim said he has owned the property for 60 years and the subject is angry because he won't let her horses run on his property.

• A Sorrel Tree Lane, Elgin woman reported on Feb. 14 that someone stole her license plate from her vehicle when it was parked on the side of I-20.

• A Frierson Street woman reported on Jan. 31 that someone opened her mail which was being delivered to her grandfather's house.

• A Bethune Highway woman reported on Feb. 11 that her grandson has been threatening her and she is afraid of him.

• A Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Road man reported on Feb. 12 that his ex-wife stole a No Trespassing sign from his property in an ongoing property dispute.



GEE ATKINSON/OBSERVER

Left to right: Stormie Finotti, Katie Hawkins, Zan Beasley and Emily Anne Beasley stand in front of the club's winning 4-H entries which were on display at the Opera House.

Sunset Riders are winners again!

By Gee Atkinson
Editor

Lee County Observer, Bishopville, SC

Members of the Lee County 4-H Sunset Riders Horse Club brought home an impressive number of awards from a statewide art contest.

Christen Moore, Kristy Waldrep, Stormie Finotti, Zan Beasley and Emily Anne Beasley submitted a variety of handmade art projects in the statewide contest open to 4-H horse members in the junior category for ages 9-13.

The divisions include horse drawing, poetry and essay, posters, woodworking, sewing, recycling, and multimedia crafts.

Melissa Brundage is the sponsor of the Sunset Riders.

"I'm proud of all the children!" she said. "They work hard and put forth a lot of effort to create these projects. For the first time, every single entry won a ribbon!"

However, just placing is not enough for these ambitious kids, Brundage says.

"This year a couple of them really pulled out all the stops and we came home with three division winners and, for the first time, a Best in Show," she said. "To win that award means they competed against all age groups in their division. When you have a junior win the Best in Show, that's something really special. Lee County has a lot to be proud of in these children."

Kristy Waldrep, 12, won Best in Show with her pencil drawing of the musculature of a horse.



GEE ATKINSON/OBSERVER

Christen Moore and Kristy Waldrep hold up their 4-H horse club entries that were big winners in the recent statewide art contest.

Her work was judged by 4-H leaders from around the state and competed against more than 60 other projects.

Waldrep, who said she has been drawing "since she was little," wants to be an equine veterinarian when she grows up.

Christen Moore, 11, sewed a saddle blanket, made a grooming belt out of a recycled feed bag, and wrote an essay on composting. She won second place in the recycling contest division and won the entire sewing division for her handmade saddle blanket which features crocheted

beads and ribbons. Her essay on composting horse manure won a first place ribbon.

Stormie Finotti, 10, won a first place ribbon for a photo she took of her horse's head. Zan Beasley brought home a white ribbon for her photo of western wear, that included a saddle, boots and spurs in a barn.

Emily Anne Beasley, 8, made a poster of the Thoroughbred horse.

Brundage said the children won't be resting on their laurels for long. "The speech regional competition is this Thursday in Lee County,"

she said. "The Hippology and Horsebowl competitions are at Clemson on February 26 and 27."

The Sunset Riders will also be showing their horses at local shows.

"We'll be at Green Savannah and Camden Equestrian Circuits beginning in March to practice for the State 4-H Horseshow in June," Brundage said.

The Lee County Sunset Riders moved to Lee County in late 2007 after being based out of Darlington County.

"We're small but we're active," Brundage said.

Melvin's sentencing delayed until March

Sentencing for former Lee County Sheriff E.J. Melvin has been delayed and has been now scheduled for March 17. Court filings show Melvin's attorney, Jack Swerling of Columbia, asked for the delay to provide additional time to study Melvin's presentencing report.

U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie agreed to move sentencing to allow Swerling more time.

Melvin was found guilty in November of 37 counts relating to drug conspiracy and racketeering.

Melvin is facing 30 years to life in prison.



Lee County Relay For Life

Womanless Beauty Pageant
Friday, February 25, 7 p.m.
Entertainment by The Praisemen
Admission- \$3.00

and

Gospel Music Fest
Saturday, February 26, 7 p.m.
featuring
JH4, C & D Gospel Ministries,
Last Generation,
The Cedar Creek Quartet,
Mt. Hermon Morning Glory and
St. Mark Adult Choir

Admission-\$4.00 in advance,
\$5.00 at the door
Old Bishopville High School Gym

Concessions and door prizes available both nights

For more information or to purchase tickets call 484-5313

All proceeds benefit The American Cancer Society