

## Racing fun



Saturday evening, the Fastrax Kartway located at 589 Old Wire Road, Bennettsville, hosted a series of go-kart races in multiple classes. Over a thousand race fans, drivers and pit crews invaded Marlboro County from various states on the east coast for an exciting

evening of family friendly go kart racing fun and thousands of dollars in prize money. Fastrax Kartway will continue to host various go kart races this season and will bring several national go-kart races to Marlboro County in April. - photo by Lorenzo Adams

## McQueen named deputy director of Charleston County Public Library

Bennettsville native Jim McQueen has been named a deputy director of the Charleston County Public Library system.

He joins the senior leadership team of the system after serving most recently as operations manager for the Johns Island Regional Library. As deputy director, he will supervise the St. Andrews cluster, Otranto

cluster and John's Island cluster.

In making the announcement, CCPL Executive Director Nicolle Davies said, "Jim has a strong background in public libraries that includes several leadership roles at CCPL. He served as county librarian at the Ashe County Public Library in North Carolina for seven years, where

he led the system through a major remodel. Jim has vast experience with strategic planning, budgeting and community outreach. I am confident that Jim's knowledge, enthusiasm and positive outlook will benefit CCPL."

McQueen lives in Mt. Pleasant with his wife, Jen, and sons Jamie and John.

## AMIKidsInfinity Marlboro 'breaks barriers' to strengthen community

AMIKidsInfinity Marlboro debuted today #BreakingBarriers, a bridge-building program that brought the Bennettsville Police Department and at-risk youth together at an event that promoted mutual respect and communication toward forging positive relationships.

This is one of many #BreakingBarriers programs to debut in South Carolina. Nationally, #BreakingBarriers will include dozens of AMIKids programs in 9 states with community-based events that will increase dialogue and positive interaction between law enforcement and troubled youth. AMIKids will sustain this partnership long-term with ongoing relationship-building activities that will have a lasting impact on the police officers and communities they serve.

"#BreakingBarriers is an important priority for AMIKidsInfinity Marlboro and our partners at the Bennettsville Police Department, as it is critical to our service of building and maintaining healthy, safe communities," said Executive Director, Kimberly Dease, AMIKidsInfinity Marlboro.

#BreakingBarriers aims to improve the outlook and perceptions of troubled



AMIKids at BTU Nursing Home for Valentine's Day event

youth and law enforcement by encouraging communication that identifies commonalities and clarifies the roles each play in building strong communities.

"The Bennettsville Police Department is committed to improving the direction of the lives of our youth. We want to continue growth and strengthen our relationships with AMIKids. The relationships with the youth of AMIKids are of great importance to the community as well," said Captain Greg Williams, Interim Chief of Police, Bennettsville Police Department. "We at the Bennettsville Police Department want to play an important role in the lives

of our youth by being candid and honest in communications. Our vision is a strong community bond and that includes conversations not only with the adults but with the youth as well."

The debut AMIKidsInfinity Marlboro #BreakingBarriers event began with a Valentine's Day event at BTU Nursing Home, with the program's youth and law enforcement providing gifts and engaging with residents in activities. Then the youth hosted law enforcement at their school, sharing a meal and engaging in a guided common-ground activity and discussion co-facilitated by an AMIKids educator.



Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Upsilon Sigma Omega chapter

## Upsilon Sigma Omega participates in Go Red for Heart Health

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Upsilon Sigma Omega chapter joined millions of women on National Wear Red Day, Friday, February 3, by wearing red for their Community Impact Day "Pink Goes Red" to bring awareness to heart disease and stroke in women.

Alpha Kappa Alpha members, known for wearing pink, adorned themselves in red to promote heart disease awareness. The chapter posted member photos along with statistics and facts about heart disease on the Upsilon Sigma Omega Chapter Facebook page throughout the day to spread awareness.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women causing 1 in 3 deaths each year. That

amounts to approximately one woman every minute. The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement advocates for continued research and swifter action for women's heart health.

This Community Impact Day is a component of the sorority's 2014-2018 international program theme Launching New Dimensions of Service under the Health Promotions target.

The Upsilon Sigma Omega chapter also hosted a "Paint the Alley Pink" Go Red Bowl-A-Thon on February 11th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Southgate Bowling Center in Florence.

The event aimed to promote living an active lifestyle

while raising awareness of heart disease, and the signs and symptoms of a heart attack that often go undetected in women. According to the American Heart Association Go Red for Women reports 80% of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action.

The event was open to community. During the event, the chapter provided information on heart disease and tips to lead a heart healthy lifestyle. The chapter also collected \$155 in donations for the American Heart Association. The Upsilon Sigma Omega chapter plans to continue heart health awareness activities throughout the month of February.

## Bridge results at the Village

Bridge-at-the-Village, Laurinburg, NC, February 20, 2017; Brian Potter, Clio, Director:  
1. Patsy Smith / Barbara Henry;  
2. Norma Jones / Millie Yongue;  
3. John and Celeste Lewis;  
4. Ben and Ruth Drymon.

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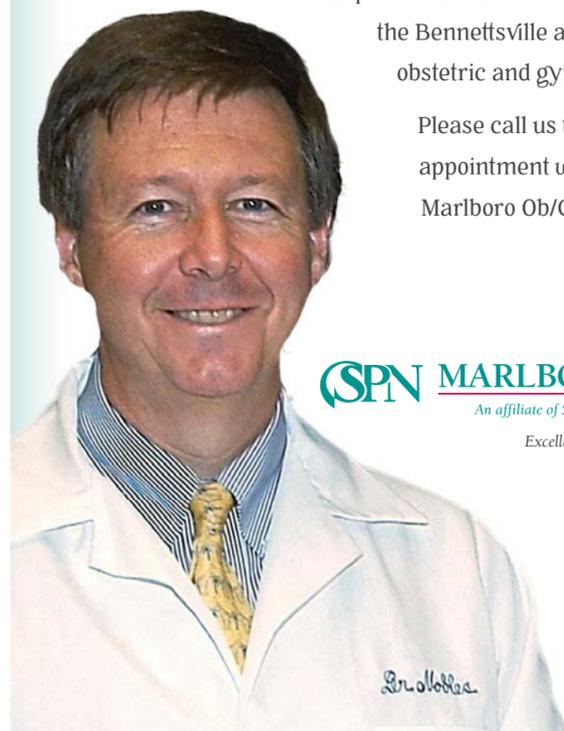
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