

Pageant's name spurs petition

Some not so merry at Berkeley High switch

BY YVONNE M. WENGER
The Post and Courier

MONCK'S CORNER — Town Administrator Dale Surrentt might have been right when he said folks "love the baby Jesus." More than 1,300 signed a petition to have the name of Berkeley High School's long-standing beauty pageant changed back to Miss Merry Christmas for next year.

"It crushed my heart," Janet Jurosko said of the school's decision to change the name to Miss Winter Wonderland, which was held Dec. 2. "As a Christian we have to make a stand or we will have Christ out of everything."

Jurosko, who is county auditor, started the petition drive about two weeks ago. She asked the Berkeley County School Board in a letter to change the policy to prohibit individual schools from making that type of decision. The administration at the school, which is at 406 W. Main St., decided the new name would better reflect the event.

Chairwoman Kathleen Bounds said Thursday the board has not made a decision but is considering the matter. About 15 people attended the board meeting Tuesday and presented the petition, which stated that the name change was offensive.

Erica Fann said the petition is evidence that "the public is outraged" by the decision. Her 15-year-old daughter, Jordanne Layman, won Miss Congeniality in the pageant. Fann said that Jordanne was not allowed to dress as an angel in the event.

"I believe that we need to, as Christians, stand up for our faith and our religion," Fann said. "Little by little we have been denied our religious rights and it is

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Panel urges \$65M bond issue for parks, road

BY ROBERT BEHRE
The Post and Courier

For the past five years, Tom O'Rourke has tried to get permission to borrow \$36 million to buy land for new parks and boat landings across Charleston County.

Each time, county officials urged him not to pursue a separate bond issue but to join in the half-cent sales tax referendum, which voters eventually approved last fall.

O'Rourke, who is executive director of the county's Park and Recreation Commission, went along, even though he was uneasy about local real estate trends. "The land is going away," he said, "and the prices are going up."

On Thursday, he got an early indication that the wait will pay off.

County Council's Finance Committee voted 8-0 to recommend a \$65 million bond issue that would include \$36 mil-

lion for the commission and \$29 million for the Palmetto Commerce Parkway, a North Charleston road project that voters also approved last fall.

"This is just probably the best day," O'Rourke said after the vote. "We've felt the public wanted this land for parks and greenbelts for quite some time."

By next spring, presuming the bond issue gains final council approval, the commission will hire real estate consul-

tants and begin searching for suitable sites. O'Rourke said the top priorities are finding park sites in Mount Pleasant, then West Ashley, but he said any deals will depend not only on the commission's priorities but also the available opportunities to buy land. He said the money won't go toward administrative expenses or park improvements.

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Wireless medicine



GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

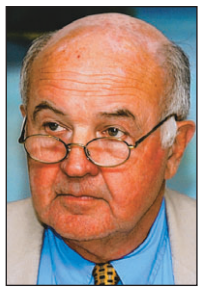
Cardiologist Lars Runquist uses his PDA to check information Thursday on his next patient at Roper Hospital. A new wireless computer system has been in place since September so doctors can check on patients' medical histories and vital statistics.

Citizens criticize Rozier's funding

Group questions campaign donations from developers

BY CHRIS DIXON AND YVONNE M. WENGER
The Post and Courier

MONCK'S CORNER—Readers of The Berkeley Independent newspaper were surprised Dec. 7 to find a half-page advertisement headlined "Berkeley County For Sale, Call: James H. Rozier, Sales Agent." Paid for by a group calling itself Concerned Citizens of Berkeley County, the advertisement documented \$21,900 in campaign donations to Rozier from December 2004 to September 2005.



Rozier

The ad went on to accuse Rozier and Berkeley County Council of being beholden to developers who would benefit from new residential growth. Rozier, the top elected official in the county since 1991, didn't deny he had received the money. In fact, he said he had raised more than \$60,000 for his next bid for supervisor in June. But he and other council members strongly rebutted any suggestion of influence.

In a review of Rozier's campaign donations during the time period specified in the ad, The Post and Courier found that

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Middleton-area density options to get more study

BY DAVE MUNDAY
The Post and Courier

SUMMERVILLE —The struggle over how many houses should be allowed along S.C. Highway 61 near historic Middleton Place plantation played out before about 80 people at a hearing Thursday.

But after two hours of back-and-forth over the issue, a Dorchester County Council committee decided to continue studying a controversial zoning proposal that still has plenty of supporters and detractors.

The proposed ordinance creates a plantation district and requires planned-unit developments for any project bigger than 100 acres. The ordinance would allow up to 5.8 houses per net acre as long as 20 percent of the land is open space.

How many houses actually would be allowed would be determined by road capacity and other factors, according to Planning Committee Chairman Skip Elliott.

About half of the people who spoke at the hearing said council needs to set specific density limits in the plantation district.

Others called the proposal a good compromise between protecting the district and recognizing the rights of landowners.

Four members of a citizens committee that spent three months studying density limits for the plantation district said they were disappointed that the ordinance disregards their recommendation of four houses for every net acre.

"I'm disturbed by this public process that we're following in regard to a region that is a national treasure," said Drayton Hall Executive Director George McDan-

iel, a member of the citizens committee.

Two other members of the citizens committee spoke in favor of the ordinance.

"I think what you've ended up with is a very reasonable compromise," said Elaine Murray, the citizens committee chairwoman.

Dorchester County Landowners Association President Ben Coker said that limiting density to one house for every four acres would "absolutely place the cost of

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Donation to Good Cheer can help Santa find Susie this Christmas

Susie is an 8-year-old girl whose father is in jail on drug charges. Because her mother is not stable enough to take care of her, Susie is staying at one of the Good Cheer Fund agencies.



Good Cheer Fund 2005

With no other relatives to take her in, Susie will remain separated from her mother and siblings during the Christmas holiday. Her one hope is for Santa to know where she is. Donations to the Good Cheer Fund will provide Susie a safe refuge, presents, and food to make her Christmas special during this very lonely time.

Every cent of each donation to the Good Cheer Fund is given to five local charitable organizations — The Salvation Army, Star Gospel Mission, Association for the Blind, Catholic Charities and Carolina Youth Development Center. There are no overhead or administrative costs involved. Also, funds are not distributed to any individual or organization outside the Good Cheer Fund agencies.

Send your tax-deductible contribution today to the Good Cheer Fund, c/o The Post and Courier, 134 Columbus St., Charleston, S.C. 29403-4800. Any amount you send could help make Christmas a little brighter for someone less fortunate than you.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In thanks for "Katie Luv" from Wa-Wa \$20.00

- The Bi-Coastal Supper Club 275.00
Kathy and Amy Wrenn 25.00
JCB 35.00
In honor of children and grandchildren ... 100.00
Christian and Mary Ann Loeffler 300.00
William and Catherine Kabakjian 25.00
Kathleen and John Appleby 50.00
The Three M's 100.00
Paul Palumbo 50.00
James J. Raftery, II 20.00
The Memorial Class of St. Mark United Methodist Church 25.00
Magnolia Credit Corporation 100.00
In lieu of gifts within our immediate circle of loved persons, from Dorothy Meacham 300.00
In honor of the friends of McLeod 100.00
Speak Kindly Circle of the Kings Daughters and Sons 25.00
Donna Vellon 25.00
Bethany United Methodist Jennings Bible Class 50.00
In honor of Opal Robertson and all the great people at Cooper Hall, from Elizabeth Jenrette Teal (Myrtle Beach) 50.00
Jackie Gillen 100.00
Allen and Webb 1,000.00
Alex and Caroline Cash 100.00
Lynn and Jim Godfrey 100.00
In honor of our grandchildren — Courtland, Madeleine, Sean-Patrick, Grant, and Finneran, from Tim and Sandy Twomey 200.00
Wildwood Construction, Inc. 150.00
C. Richard Crosby 250.00
Wynona Crosby 250.00
Bryant, Zach, and Hamlin 25.00
In honor of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Havlik (LaCrosse, WI), from Kathy Rynearson 50.00
Andrew Arnold 100.00
In the spirit of Christmas, from Rob, Melanie, and Robert 25.00

- C. Scott and Tracy Strother 25.00
Sarah Mills, Alexandre, Anna, Thomas, Hagood, and Carson 300.00
Pilar, Elisa, Edward, John, Craig, Katie, and Sallie 350.00
Francis Bellan 25.00
HDC/National Marine Fisheries Service 165.00
Donna and Phillip Dawson 25.00
Pearl Thomas 50.00
In honor of John Shilling, from his wife 100.00
Stacie Russell 20.00
In honor of my friend, Betty R. Scott 25.00
ANONYMOUS
Total 645.00
IN LIEU OF CARDS
Fran and CD Melton 100.00
Leonard and Jean Fulgham 300.00
Patricia and Bill Milner (to our golfing friends) 100.00
Buffi Gaskins Mazyck-Driggers (Kiawah-Seabrook) 25.00
IN MEMORY OF
The McAllan Family 25.00
Frank, Cooper, Ray, Conway, Grace, Mary, and Jackie, from Hazel and Fred Burnet ... 200.00
Martha Freesland, Ethel Staley, and Pat Scarborough, from Epsilon Master Chapter Beta Sigma Phi 25.00
Louise and Walter Kruger, Sr., Lawrence Kruger, Peggy and Victor Salvo, Larry Burmester, Jim Reed, Charlie Paysinger, and Norman Shepard 100.00
Buddy Donald, Lewis Pickens, Al John-

- ston, Eddie Young, Bill Kulseth, Bill Wheeler, Warren Lear, and Bobby Varn 100.00
Gus, Emily, and Henry Molony, from the family 50.00
Randy 100.00
John A. Farris, by Bailey Brailsford and Halle Bradford 50.00
Joseph, Mildred, Mike, and Joan Lannan . 25.00
My father, Donald Robinson, from Christine Finnan 50.00
Mr. and Mrs. Elias Blackwell 100.00
Our parents, from Bill and Diane Hawkins 50.00
My husband, Windy Osburn and son, Monte Osburn 25.00
My wife, Vera Cuzzell and son, Lenny Cuzzell, Jr. 25.00
E.T. Jr. and George S. Haynie, George L., Lucile H. Doris, Faye and Mary Lu Sutler, John C. and Loretta H. Harris, Neal and Louise Minkner, Elma and William Guthrie, Lillie Green, and Kitty Kitty, from Frances and Ned 125.00
Past and Present members of Ivy Garden Club 56.00
Janett McKnight Harken 50.00
Dr. R.M. Anderson 100.00
Murray Bonnoitt and Falcon Hawkins, from the Birthday Group 200.00
Timmie C. 10.00
Our son, Billy 50.00
Elizabeth McIntire 1,000.00
Our grandson, Christopher W. Keil 50.00
Captain and Mrs. George C. Logan 100.00
Alice Logan Wright and George C.L. Wright 100.00
Jane B. Moyes, Robert G. Kube, and Bartie, Tanner, and Tashi 100.00
Dr. John C. Hawk, Jr. 300.00
Terry Bull, a man who brought much good cheer 100.00
Our son, Leonard Brown 50.00
Our departed brothers, from Orange-

- Charles Towne Lodge Number 14 AFM 25.00
Lila and Dewey Wilkes, Daisy and Charles Missel, and Dee and Billy Newton 50.00
Libba 50.00
Douglas Poaps, from Daniel and Cameron 30.00
Thomas A. Kirkland and Virginia R. Kirkland 100.00
Travis Baker, my grandson, from his grandmother, Doris Penney-Hamilton 50.00
Harold "Zap" Jones, from David A. Myatt 50.00
Our sons, with love, Dan Hundley and Jamie Richards 250.00
Edward G. Gibson and Jennie L. Gibson 100.00
Gonzales S. Waddy 100.00
Friends: Joe Bishop, Henry Conner, Bob Bott, C.C. Pearce, Julian Buxton, Dick Luke, and Joe Frank Garner 200.00
My father/Opa, Ronald Rebl, Sr., from Lee and Jonathan 50.00
Jan Akers, from Sue King, Peter Kalivas, and Allie 200.00
Ruby and Joe Newton, Harold Newton, and Sean Ayers 2,000.00
Barbara and Mike McKenzie 500.00
Our moms — Lil (Honey) Baldwin and Anne C. Hyers 100.00
Our parents — George and Mattie Martin, Grandmother Mary Ellis, Estelle Shackelford, Vi and Richard Galenes, Harry and Lovina Galenes 50.00
Billy and Julie Muckenfuss 500.00
Al and Bobby 50.00
Carl F. Kornahrens 50.00
Joseph A. Kornahrens 25.00
TODAY'S TOTAL \$14,126.00
PREVIOUS TOTAL \$75,824.19
YEAR TO DATE \$89,950.19
LAST YEAR TO DATE \$90,860.73