

Help stamp out hunger

Thumbs Up to letter carriers across the country for their work today to help people who are hungry. Here's how you can earn a Thumbs Up, too: Leave some nonperishable food items at your mailbox today. Donations in this area will go to the Community Food Bank. This is the 16th year for this food drive, which is sponsored by Campbell Soup Co. and the U.S. Postal Service in partnership with the National Association of Letter Carriers. Please don't donate items that have reached their expiration date or those in glass containers. Items that will work are canned meats and fish, canned soup, juice, pasta, vegetables, cereal and rice. Do your share today to, as our letter carriers say, "Stamp Out Hunger."

Attracting talent to Greenville

Thumbs Up to Food for Thought, a conference held this past week in Greenville that was designed to help area companies attract talent by raising Greenville's profile, according to a report in Friday's *Greenville News*. The conference was the idea of Joe Erwin, founder of advertising agency Erwin-Penland Inc. It was sponsored by several major employers in the area and attracted 50 attendees from around the region and the country. Events included fine food at area restaurants, a trip to BMW to drive at the company's test track, 16 featured speakers, and a lot of discussion. While the event was invitation-only this year, Erwin said it may be expanded next year.

Greenville News 5/10/08

Keeping rivers clean

Thumbs Up to Upstate Forever for securing \$1.1 million in federal and private grants that will be used to help protect the Reedy and Saluda rivers. The grants include \$800,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency and \$300,000 from the V. Kann Rasmussen Foundation. The money will be used to fund various tools to help protect Upstate waterways from the impact of development. These are important waterways for the Upstate, and finding ways to protect them is important to us all.

Help your pets stay single

Thumbs Up to two groups doing their share over the next couple of weeks to help people understand the need to spay or neuter their pets. As the Greenville Humane Society reminds us, dogs can learn lots of neat tricks, but they can't learn how to practice safe sex. "Sips for Snips" is a fundraiser on May 20 at Mary's Restaurant in the West End (go to sipsforsnips.com or call 242-3626, Ext. 227, for more information). And on May 17, volunteers with Speak for Animals will hold Spa for Spays from noon to 5 p.m. at Kimah Healing Arts Center in Greenville (go to www.speakforanimals.com or call 864-421-0022).