

Graham

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Graham said it was an honor to receive the degree from PC, "likewise the experience in Charleston."

"I never dreamed it would happen to me. It is the most thing the school can do for someone, and I am going to enjoy it as much as the kids graduating, although it is a lot easier for me. All I had to do was drive from Columbia."

"I have a simple message," Graham said before the graduation. "You have hopes and dreams, and a little bit of fear. Just don't get so caught up in your career that you forget the ones who mean the most."

He said that the young graduates "can't assume that everything will be the same as it is today," especially with the difficult economy.

Graham family remembers his years at USC, where he majored in psychology because he "didn't have to take any math." College was a time to figure out what is important, how to practice self-discipline, and how to get to class on time. He said that there was a lot of pressure on him because he was the first in his family to attend college.

"I had a fear of failing. I didn't know if I could do it or not, but in that sense you get to know a little bit. College is a wonderful, scary, memorable experience."

In Betty Strickland, assistant superintendent for Laurens School District #3, shared an apartment with Graham for a few years while attending USC. He said that they enjoyed going to sporting events together and

still kept in touch.

"I think he is one of the success stories of balancing everything out," he said, referring to Graham finishing college while mentoring his family members after losing both parents in a short period of time. "And did I think that he was going to be a U.S. senator or the vice? Probably not, just like he wouldn't have said I would be a super-intendant."

Graham said that he would have enjoyed the PC experience calling it "a real gem of a school" and a "place where you can really get to know the people."

"The strength of this nation is in our value system and our young people," he said. "I have confidence that they are up to it."



Photo by Judith Brown

FIRE HAPPY — Past and present officials with the county and the hospital enjoy the sight of the general obligation bond, paid off in January, forming in a cauldron. After a public battle with many in the county for or against, the county proceeded to help pay for the united hospital almost 20 years ago. Watching the bond begin its life are David Ramage, chairman of the board for LHCHS, County Council chairman Jim Cowart, then a member of county council; Russ Emmons, then chairman of the board for the Laurens County Health Care System; and LHCHS CEO Ron D'Albano.

Boyd Mill

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Wickham, general manager for Northbrook. "We have no plans to do that at all."

He said that the only time the lake's level is lowered is when homeowners ask to do dock repair or work on their waterfront property.

"We have not been able to do that for the last three years because of the drought situation," Wickham said.

The petition urges residents to call or write to Northbrook, Rep. Mike Pitts, Sen. Daniel Wiedie, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Federal Wildlife Service to support the petition.

On Tuesday afternoon, Pitts informed The Advertiser that his House staff attorneys have been in contact with DNR and DNR officials and have provided him with detailed information that he covers on airwaves.

"I have a number of constituents who are being impacted and struck," Pitts said. However, according to Pitts, Boyd Mill Pond is a privately-

owned lake, having had owners who few options if a decision is made to drain it.

Some Boyd Mill Pond residents are still concerned since they build and enjoy the lake and grow some food, and the lake and crops feeding in the lake is great for recreation according to environmentalist Barry Bookbinder.

"Our main concern is the loss of the fish," Bookbinder said. "We just got over an oil spill in this pond. It is just now recovering and getting back into really good shape."

"The majority of the homeowners are not interested in people losing their jobs or anything over this," said Jarrell. "What we are able to do is see if there is another way to fix the problem without draining the lake. We would like to work with them to come up with a better solution."

"We try to be good stewards of the environment and not best practices in the industry, which includes not draining the lake."

Wickham said, "We don't just pull the plug on a lake."

Wickham added that draining the lake would require a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Bookbinder is concerned because it appears that Northbrook has not applied for a permit, notified landowners or completed an environmental impact study.

"The reason why there are no permits or hearings or anything is because we are not doing this," commented Strickland. "We have no plans financially or operationally to drain the lake."

Hospital

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Now that the bond has been paid, the hospital system will begin more strategic planning for the future, according to D'Albano.

Board of trustees chairman David Ramage concluded with

any new without strategic planning in your past," said D'Albano.

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that "to health care, like in everything else," Ramage said, "you have to go forward or else you'll get back there."

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"It seems that, though it was bad for the area where the mill closed, it actually helped the area by getting rid of those jobs," Pitts said.

"According to Pitts, dumping the dyes had been allowed because they were considered biodegradable."

"But the problem being created now is untreated waste on overflow of waste treatment facilities," Pitts said and the 23 legislators involved in the hearings next week will hear the study results and have the task of determining a course of action.

"We're asking ERHC and other folks to get in about the problems and their organizations," Pitts said. "That's what we'll hear during the course of the meeting."

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Saluda

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Both the Reedy River and the Saluda feed into Lake Greenwood, he added, "so Lake Greenwood is directly affected."

According to the study results, published in the American Rivers Web site, the "chronic levels of average waste discharge are drinking water of more than 300,000 South Carolina residents."

"American Rivers is asking the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to improve wastewater treatment standards and ensure the river enters its phosphorus levels by 25 to 50 percent," the site said, explaining that "the increased phosphorus and algae block dolphins oxygen, and kills fish and other aquatic life."

The health of the fish and aquatic life is why Pitts, formerly on the Wildlife Subcommittee for the Natural Resources committee, first became concerned about the river years ago.

"I spent a lot of time on the river," Pitts said, "and I would hear the old claims, those guys

who have spent years fishing in these rivers, say they didn't see the fish they used to see."

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action on Sept. 15, 1970, but refused to duty on Oct. 4. He was pronounced dead on Feb. 17, 1984.

If you believe you or someone you know may be related to Grant, you can call Cory English at the Archives at (804)894-2586 or Harold Davis at (804)791-1331.

"Over the last few years, I will call that family and explain exactly what's happening," Davis said. "I bet that information over to the County Office. If they qualify as a gene donor, it will be sent to BMC in Huntsville."

MIA

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he said, "I have contacted a number of citizens and they said they know nothing of him."

But also said he tried to look up death records, but they are only available to next-of-kin. "I was into dead ends all over the place," he said.

Davis said that it is odd that Grant, who was 34 when he was missing, only held the rank of corporal. He believes Grant may have entered the Army later in life than most other soldiers and, therefore, may not have served in World War II.

Grant was also wounded in

action on Sept. 15, 1950, but refused to duty on Oct. 4. He was pronounced dead on Feb. 17, 1984.

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