

The Week in local news

Greenville Journal
10-9-09



Expect traffic snarls downtown as Greenville began fixing several streets in the central business district.

Work is ongoing along East Broad Street, Falls/South Spring/North Spring Streets and segments of West McBee Avenue and East McBee Avenue and completed by the end of the month.

Sloan Construction is the contractor and the majority of the work will be done during the business day; however some weekend work will be necessary.

With the exception of East Broad Street (from McDaniel Avenue to David Francis Street), the work will be performed without having to close the street.

Some of the most scenic farmland and woodlands in Oconee County will be preserved under a conservation agreement between Upstate Forever, the John Ivester family and the South Carolina Conservation Bank.

It is the first phase of a plan to protect Rose Hill Farms, a 336-acre parcel of land that borders Oconee Station State Park and Sumter National Forest.

Rose Hill includes seven tributaries of Oconee Creek along with access to the 50-foot high Lee Falls in Sumter National Forest. The privately owned tract, which was approved for funding by the South Carolina Conservation Bank Board in June of 2008, is a scenic buffer and wildlife corridor that consists of beautiful rolling hills and steep ravines descending down into hayfields and pastures.

"Rose Hill Farms is one of those top priority properties and the protection of this land is really a reason to celebrate," says Dana Leavitt, Upstate Forever's Land Trust director.

Initially, John Ivester intended to sell the farm. But after working closely with Upstate Forever and the South Carolina Conservation Bank, he decided keeping it for his heirs with a conservation agreement was a better choice.

Although his love of the land and family's use and enjoyment of the property were motivating factors, compensation from the South Carolina Conservation Bank and the increased tax benefits in 2009 made this a viable transaction.

State budget cuts delayed the funds last year, threatening the future of this parcel, Upstate Forever said, and preventing the closing from occurring until mid-September.

The South Carolina Conservation Bank has provided funding for conservation agreements and purchases of Stumphouse Mountain in Oconee County, the Nine Times Tract in Pickens County, Firefly Forest and Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville County.

Furman graduate Adam Morgan turned his experience as a freshman into a sitcom script.

Fox Broadcasting Co. will produce it as a national network TV pilot.

"Every college has its own mythology and rites of passage, and I just thought it would be a great minefield for story ideas and a great setting for a comedy show," said Morgan, a 2007 Furman graduate who is now a second-year student in Roosevelt University's Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program.

Furman is not mentioned in the script. More than 600 entries in the Fox-Procter and Gamble Comedy Script Contest were considered during the 2009 New York Television Festival Awards held in New York City.

Morgan's "Liberal Arts" tells the story of what it's like to be a college student through the eyes of Zach Croft, a well-meaning but shy and unlucky guy who tries but usually doesn't succeed in making a good impression at homecoming, parents' weekend, campus parties and other college settings.

Morgan is concentrating on fiction writing at Roosevelt.

He will meet with Fox and Procter and Gamble representatives in the coming weeks to discuss plans for the TV pilot. Morgan hopes to be involved in writing episodes for a TV show as the project moves along.

Morgan grew up in the Carolinas and now lives in Chicago.



You can't flag down a bus anymore anywhere in Greenville.

Starting last Monday, Greenlink, the city-county bus service, eliminated flag stops.

Flag stops occurred when a bus passenger waved down a passing bus at any point along the bus route. Flag stops made it virtually impossible to run routes on time.

With this new system, Greenlink drivers will stop only at designated bus stops. It will also do away with

passengers being able to get off the bus between stops.

The Greenville Transit Authority, City of Greenville and Greenville County are working together to install new signs at every stop so passengers will know where to wait for the >