

Singers to perform at church

The Singers of Summerville will present its fall concert of Mozart's "Requiem" at 7 p.m. Monday at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 11001 Dorchester Road in Summerville.

The singers are under the direction of Dr. Valerie Bullock, chair of the Horton School of Music and professor of music and director of choral activities at Charleston Southern University.

The Singers of Summerville, the combined CSU choral ensembles and an orchestra made up of members of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and CSU faculty and students, will collaborate in this performance, which will be conducted by Bullock.

Additional soloists are Dr. Jill Terharr Lewis, soprano; Dr. Jennifer Luiken, mezzo soprano; Walter Cuttino, tenor; and Dr. Anthony Offerle, baritone. Singers of Summerville concerts are free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. A free-will offering will be taken to cover expenses for this performance.

The Singers of Summerville was formed in 2003 to provide Summerville and surrounding communities with performances of sacred and secular music of the past five centuries. The choir rehearses Monday and some Thursday evenings on the campus of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 316 W. Carolina Ave. in Summerville. The ensemble is made up of 35 musicians from the Summerville area. Entrance into the choir is gained through competitive audition.

For information about the concert, directions or auditioning, visit www.singersofsummerville.org.

Fifth annual pumpkin patch set

Knightsville United Methodist Church, 1505 Central Ave. in Summerville, will hold its fifth annual Pumpkin Patch from Saturday through Oct. 31.

The Pumpkin Patch will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday noon to 7 p.m. The Pumpkin Patch will be open on weekday mornings for day-care field trips. During this special time, the children may enjoy organized games, storytelling, pumpkin planting and a hay maze. Last year, the patch welcomed 800 children from local day-care centers.

The Pumpkin Patch receives its pumpkins from a Navaho Indian Reservation in New Mexico. The patch will offer pumpkins in all shapes and sizes, including white and Frankenstein pumpkins. Decorative swan, penguin, and wing gourds will be available along with varieties of Indian corn.

All proceeds from the Pumpkin Patch will go to the church's missions, which this year include the Palmetto House (a homeless shelter in Summerville), Children in Crisis and the Salkahatchie Summer Service Project.

During the Pumpkin Patch, Knightsville United Methodist also will host a Fall Hoe-Down. This year's Hoe-Down will be 4-10 p.m. Oct. 21. Attendees may enjoy games, hay rides, a haunted house and face-painting. Also, refreshments, a bake sale and hourly live entertainment will be offered.

For information, call the church at 875-2117.

To schedule a field trip, call Carrie Karns at 875-7010.

Sewee programs

The Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center is at 5821 U.S. Highway 17 in Awendaw. To register, call 928-3368.

NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY DAY
— **LIVING WITH FIRE:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 7. The children's education program begins at 10 a.m. and explores fire in the forest ecosystem. Smokey Bear will make an appearance with firefighters. Learn about protecting homes from wildfire. See the clothing and equipment used to protect firefighters and demonstrations of fire-suppression equipment. Free.

S.C. CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY
— **LIVE BIRD PROGRAM:** 2 p.m. Oct. 8 and 22. Learn facts about these feathered predators, the medical facility that treats injured raptors and how to help. Volunteers always are needed. Get an update on the new facility, scheduled to open in 2007. Free.

‘Grape’ grandpa still enjoys pastime

BY LUCIA WALINCHUS
The Post and Courier

Sam Causey may be pushing 90, but that doesn't stop him from working in his vineyard for six hours a day — *after* he gets home from helping out at his son's barbershop.

Causey has about 90 plants in his vineyard, interwoven into a natural tapestry. Causey, who used to work at S.C. Electric & Gas Co., created his hanging garden from recycled power poles and power lines strung together into a framework. He even engineered his own low-voltage electric fence from the lines to keep out raccoons and others eager to steal an afternoon snack.

"I pick the grapes, and I give them to my son to give them to his friends and customers," Causey said.

Causey is a little over 5 feet tall, with rough hands gnarled by years of hard work.

His smile is as wide as the brim on his cowboy hat, and he has a giddy exuberance as he shows off his favorite pastime.

The reason he has been growing grapes for 56 years, he said, is simple: "I enjoy working with them. I like to see them grow."

Dan Causey, 63, Sam Causey's son, owns Causey's Barbershop and operates in three locations, two in Mount Pleasant and one in North Charleston. Before the light of day, Sam Causey rises and goes to open one of the shops by 6 a.m.

"He's very helpful in the barber-shop. ... He opens the shop for me



LUCIA WALINCHUS/STAFF

Sam Causey, who will be 90 this month, enjoys working on his grapevines every day. Causey, who used to work for SCE&G, created the vineyard using recycled power lines and power poles.

and has people there waiting for me," Dan Causey said.

"If I'm not there by a certain time in the morning, he calls the house and asks if I'm going to work today: 'What's wrong with you?'" Dan Causey said with a laugh.

By about 8:30 a.m., Sam Causey leaves the shop and heads to his vineyard. After that, he takes a long nap in the afternoon and then is ready to go bike riding.

"He's very active," said Dan Causey.

Sam Causey bikes in the evenings with his neighbor, Len Fries.

"He'll call Mr. Fries across the

street, and say, 'You ready to ride?'" Dan Causey said.

Sam Causey was born 90 years ago this month in tiny Cordesville in Berkeley County. He grew up on his family farm with 15 brothers and sisters. Causey met his wife in 1939, and they had their son in 1943. The family then moved to the Charleston area in 1947 because Causey couldn't find work in the Moncks Corner area.

"I just didn't like it. There were no jobs out in Moncks Corner, in Cordesville," Sam Causey said.

Growing grapes began as a small pastime for Causey, who started

working as a truck driver for SCE&G about the same time. But his hobby grew and grew.

At the peak of his hobby, Causey had 1,600 vines on 36 acres, and he would sell his crop to local grocery stores such as Piggly Wiggly, Red & White and the now-defunct Colonial.

About five years before he retired, Causey decided that farming and working full time were just too much. So he sold the majority of his plants and went back to doing it as a hobby.

Today, Causey has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren

Wando will host marching band competition

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little more marching stuff. But it's really all coming together."

Bands will be grouped from A to AAAAA, depending on the size of the school and the number of horns in the band. Wando cannot win a trophy because it is hosting the competition, but it still will be graded on its performance so it can improve for future competitions. Burke High School also will perform for exhibition.

"I think it's great that we can host a contest where we have such great judges, and the bands can come and get such effective comments this early in the year," said Band Director Scott Rush.

Rush said he was particularly proud of the lineup of judges. He said they were culled from top college marching bands and include two judges from Drum Corps International, a leading organization in the field.

"They're probably two of the top visual judges anywhere for our activity," he said.

In addition to awards in each category, there will be awards for each caption, or section, of the performance. There will be two judges grading music, two for the visual aspect of the performance, one for the color guard, one for the percussion section and one for drum majors.

Last year, Wando won its size division in every marching band competition it entered, as well as the overall award in four contests, including the state championship.

Rush said the secret to the band's success is making sure the show is pleasing to the eye as well as to the ear, which he attributed to Michael Gray, an artist who directs the color guard.

"We're very fortunate to have someone of his caliber on our marching band staff. He always makes sure we have a visually pleasing product," Rush said.



LUCIA WALINCHUS/STAFF

Wando's band practices after school Sept. 28 for the Lowcountry Invitational Marching Band Festival on Saturday.

If you go

WHAT: Lowcountry Invitational Marching Band Festival.

WHERE: Wando High School Stadium.

WHEN: Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, with bands beginning performances at 3:30 p.m. and awards at 9 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 11, and middle school students wearing their band T-shirts get in free.

CONTACT: www.WandoBands.org; Kristin Zeaser-Sydow, 696-5747; or Cara Bluford, 881-1480.

But Rush said that the festival won't be very competitive; the grading is more for directors so they can learn how to improve their performances. "I hope that the people who come will cheer for every band because the young people worked so hard, and they deserve a great round of applause

Marching band festival

High School Bands participating in the Lowcountry Invitational Marching Band Festival (Listed in performance order)

A

Hanahan, Barnwell and Andrews high schools

AA

Berkeley, Swansea, Goose Creek and Waccamaw high schools

AAA

North Augusta, Chapin, Bly-

thewood and James Island high schools

AAAA

Polk, Spring Valley, Colleton County and Ridge View high schools

AAAAA

Summerville, Stratford and West Ashley high schools.

In exhibition

Wando and Burke high schools

from everybody who's in it."

Mary Bebensee, president of the Band Boosters and a band parent, said that although Wando has had much success, its ultimate goal is not to collect trophies.

"He's (the band director) is not out there saying, 'We have to win, just like we did last year.' He teaches

so much of that internal competition, that drive within themselves. And they learn so much more than music, they learn lessons for life," she said.

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Dance, drum troupe raises AIDS awareness

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the next year," she said. "It's an aggressive goal, but it needs to happen. We just need to raise the funds."

Demetrius Addison, a Djole member and a senior at Military Magnet Academy in North Charleston, would like to see Djole work to educate Ghanaian children.

"I think if we can get more of them educated, there will be more nurses, doctors and teachers, and we can bring them closer to where we are (educationally) over here," he said.

Demetrius believes that educating African children will empower them to grow up and help alleviate the burdens of other Africans.

He said that building a center in Ghana would be a first step toward leaving a legacy for Djole.

"People will remember us for having gotten women and children off the streets."

Djole member Kevin Taylor, a junior at Military Magnet, remembers seeing many children on the streets in Ghana.

"The center would give the kids a place to go and get a meal, and it would give women job training," he said.

Kevin and Demetrius both believe that Djole is moving in the right direction. In the coming years, they want to see the company grow and would like for more Charleston area youths to participate with the drum and dance group.

"We're a small company," Kevin said. "We could use more drums and we need more people."

Kevin said that many of Djole's participants are not involved in other extracurricular activi-

ties. The group provides North Charleston youths with an activity that is fun and keeps them out of trouble.

Demetrius said that he would like to see Djole perform more throughout the world in places such as Russia and Japan. "If we go more places, we can show people how good Americans are," Demetrius said. "I think it would help restore peace around the world. If they think we are nice, they will think that the rest of us are nice."

Demetrius said that group shows the larger community the potential that lies within youths reared in urban America.

"Djole shows people that we can do things that they think we can't do," he said. "Just because you are from a certain area doesn't mean that you can't become something and be the best at it."

The group was founded in 1999 from a community partnership formed by MUSC, the city of North Charleston and the Union Heights neighborhood in 1997.

Together, they developed a community-improvement initiative called Neighborhood Solutions designed to reduce and prevent youth violence. Swenson and organizers created the company as an activity that would steer youths away from a life of crime and toward a more positive and productive future.

The dance and drum company meets for rehearsal every Monday at 6 p.m. at Gethsemani Community Center in Union Heights. For information about Djole, call 308-4733 or visit www.djoleandancecompany.org.

Reach **Jasiri Whipper** at 745-5863 or jwhipper@postandcourier.com.

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