

METRO

LOCAL / STATE

Phelps to perform at Taylors FB Sunday

Multi-Dove and Grammy Award-winning Christian recording artist David Phelps will perform in a Christmas concert at 6 p.m. Dec. 18 at Taylors First Baptist Church.



David Phelps

Once a childhood musical prodigy from Tomball, Texas, Phelps earned a bachelor's degree in music from Baylor University. Since then, he has become a nationally celebrated vocalist, perhaps best-known as the powerful tenor for the Gaither Vocal Band.

Tickets are \$30 for artist circle, \$20 in advance, and \$17 each for groups of 10 or more.

Tickets can be charged by phone at 855-484-1991 and are available at Taylors First Baptist during daily office hours.

For more information, call 864-292-4994.

Myrtle Beach bars can stay open past 2 a.m.

Myrtle Beach City Council has killed a proposal to require bars to close at 2 a.m.

The measure would have left the option for some existing businesses to stay open after 2 a.m. Media outlets reported that Councilman Wayne Gray said Tuesday the number of exceptions to the ordinance would have been unfair to other businesses. He said the rule could discourage other businesses from opening.

City Manager John Pedersen told the council that 10 locations could be eligible to continue staying open late because they had not seen significant crime.

The proposal was designed to curb some bar activity after a shooting at a downtown club hurt five people Nov. 5.

Council voted Tuesday night to continue to require businesses near that shooting to close by 2 a.m. — AP

Fort Jackson dams to be rebuilt

Federal officials say they plan to rebuild earthen dams at the Army's Fort Jackson in Columbia that failed and flooded downstream homes after intensive 2015 rains.

The State newspaper reported (<http://bit.ly/2h3NHjA>) that rebuilding plans were revealed Wednesday as documents indicated several of the post's dams were in questionable shape two years before the 2015 storm.

A Corps of Engineers summary report listed the Semmes Lake dam and four others in "serious" condition after federal inspections.

Fort Jackson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers say they want to rebuild the Semmes Lake dam and a broken dike at the smaller Lower Legion Lake.

The fort hopes to award a construction contract by late 2017.

The dams' failure sparked lawsuits by downstream property owners claiming millions of dollars

Two charged in smash-and-grab

43 handguns stolen in October in Simpsonville

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Two 18-year-olds from Charlotte, North Carolina, Sahier Lavon Richardson and Juran Maghi Witherspoon, are facing federal charges in a pre-dawn smash-and-grab burglary at The Gun Shop in Simpsonville on Oct. 13, according to acting U.S. Attorney Beth Drake.

Three suspects were involved when a stolen minivan was driven through the front door of The Gun Shop before the suspects fled with guns in a waiting getaway car, according to investigators. An inventory revealed a total



Bollards were installed at The Gun Shop in Simpsonville following a burglary in which a stolen minivan was intentionally crashed into the front.

of 43 handguns were stolen, according to an affidavit filed by officer Kenneth Jordan of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The ATF conducted the investigation that led to the arrest of Richardson and Witherspoon

with assistance from the Simpsonville Police Department, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and Lincoln County (North Carolina) Sheriff's Department. Two of the stolen guns were recovered during the investiga-

tion, according to the affidavit. The incident was one of several similarly perpetrated across the region that drew special attention from law enforcement.

Eight days after the burglary in Simpsonville, a stolen sports-utility vehicle was driven through the front of Eagle Guns in Concord, North Carolina, before weapons were stolen, according to police reports.

Hundreds of guns have been stolen in the Charlotte area this year.

The act of purposely driving a vehicle into a store to burglarize it has become so common that it's now called ram-raiding.

According to news reports, vehicles have also been driven into gun shops in Georgia, Virginia and Kentucky since July.

Follow Michael Burns on Twitter @MikeAtGvlNwz

FOUR CHARITIES GET BIG CHECKS



Pictured from left: Kathryn Johnson (Pendleton Place), Sandra Miller (Clement's Kindness), Peter Larocque (President, North American Technology Solutions, SYNnex Corporation), Laurie Rovin (A Child's Haven), Bill Tiller (Make-A-Wish South Carolina).

SYNNEX holds Share the Magic charity fundraising initiative

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It was "the best year ever" for the SYNnex Share the Magic charity fundraising initiative.

The six-year-old initiative, created by SYNnex Corporation, raised more than \$1.5 million for four local charities, Peter Larocque, president of the North American Technology Solu-

tions, SYNnex Corp, announced Thursday.

As a result, he said, "We're going to give out bigger checks than ever."

Larocque presented the big checks — more than \$200,000 each — to four Greenville-based charities during a special event at SYNnex in Greenville.

The beneficiaries were Make-A-Wish South Carolina, A Child's Haven, Clem-

ent's Kindness and Pendleton Place for Children and Families.

The largest portion — \$275,000 — went to Clement's Kindness, an organization dedicated to "meeting the medical, emotional, and financial needs of Upstate families impacted by pediatric cancer."

Because of Share the Magic, Clement's Kindness has been able to a lot for the families it serves, said Sandra Miller, the organization's administrator.

One of the biggest projects Share the Magic funds

has supported, she said, is the Dr. Cary E. Stroud Camper Care Center, an onsite infirmary that's set to open this summer at Camp Courage.

The center will allow cancer patients to enjoy camp and get treatment while they're there so they can have the same summer experience as their peers, Miller said.

Share the Magic funds have also enabled Clement's Kindness to help its families with mortgage and car payments, utility bills, and so on,

See SYNnex, Page 4A

Goodfellows to provide holiday meals

STAFF REPORT

The James F. Daniel Jr. Post 3 of the American Legion will provide Christmas meals again this year for more than 1,000 families.

This is the 91st year Post 3 has sponsored Goodfellows Club meals, community food

and community financial support provides the meals.

All contributions to The Goodfellows Club are tax-deductible. The goal this year is \$32,000.

Donations should be mailed to

contact The American Legion, 864-271-2000.

Goodfellows

wants to thank its partners: The Greenville News, TD Center, Greenville Meats, Bi-Lo Corp., Boy Scouts of America, City

The Legion Squad 3 and American Legion Riders Chapter 3.

The total raised to date is: \$9,184.

Recent donations include: Anonymous, \$500; Anonymous, \$50; Robert Sither, \$50; Chip and Wendy Smith, \$150; Anonymous, \$25; in memory of Sam and Marie D'Angelo, Army



4A || FRIDAY, 12.16.16 || GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

TTI officials unveil plans for \$75M state-of-the-art 'innovation center'

New project expected to bring 250 jobs to Anderson

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When TTI Director of Facilities John Nixon was asked how soon work would begin on the company's new research and development center to be built alongside Interstate 85, he looked at his watch.

A planning meeting was scheduled to begin in 30 minutes, Nixon said at 11 a.m., "and we'll probably be in there till 5 o'clock. We have a lot of work to do."

The message Thursday, as TTI officials unveiled the plans for a \$75 million, state-of-the-art "innovation center" that will bring 250 high-paying jobs to the county, is that the 31-year-old company is getting plenty of work and intends to continue its expansion.

Construction on the 300,000-square-foot facility and a 30,000-square-foot testing center on the same campus will likely begin within months, Nixon said.

Nixon expects the testing center to be completed in eight months. The innovation center will be a 27-month project, he said.

Nixon said the facilities will offer "more innovation and be more efficient" than TTI's present research facilities, which are spread among the company's global operations.

"Having it all in one place, in a convenient campus, will give us a lot more efficiency," said Nixon, 47, an Anderson native and 1987 Westside High graduate.

He said the company explored sites in other states during "four or five months of intense strategic planning" before selecting Anderson County.

"I think it helped that we have a good relationship with partnerships already here, and a lot of our business is already here," Nixon said, echoing the sentiments of TTI Outdoor Power Equipment President Lee Sowell and TTI Power Tools



Anderson County Council member Ken Waters speaks during the announcement Thursday morning of TTI's plans to build a research and development center at its site off Interstate 85.

MIKE ELLIS/INDEPENDENT MAIL

Group President Michael Farrah.

Sowell and Farrah joined Anderson County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn at the podium at the Anderson Civic Center on Thursday for the

announcement. State Rep. Brian White, R-Anderson, chairman of the state House Ways and Means committee, also addressed the crowd of about 140, as did county Councilman Tom Allen.

Allen called the announcement "quite a Christmas gift to Anderson County," in part because the facility is expected to bring 250 jobs paying from \$60,000 to \$100,000 per year.

Officials estimate TTI's present payroll of about \$60 million will grow to \$72 million when the center is up and running. TTI pays its workers among the highest wages in the county.

The company, which designs and manufactures power tool equipment for at least seven brands, now employs about 1120 workers in its facility on Pearman Dairy Road and its distribution center at the I-85 site. It is Anderson County's third-largest manufacturing employer behind ElectroLux (1,800 employees) and Bosch (1,350 employees).

Farrah said the innovation center will house "desirable jobs, many of them engineering and computer engineering positions. These will be high-end jobs. This is

what we want our children to be doing."

"This will have a tremendous influence on every aspect of life in Anderson County," Allen said.

The announcement came on the heels of a 2015 expansion of TTI's manufacturing and distribution operations at I-85. At the time, officials indicated that further expansion at the company's 413-acre site was likely.

In a special meeting Wednesday, the Anderson County Council approved a \$2.5 million investment in the project. Those funds, which will come from federal grant money and sewer fees already in place, will provide roads, sewer and water lines. An existing fee involving the distribution center "will be tweaked," County Administrator Rusty Burns said.

That investment is expected to pay dividends quickly. The county will benefit by nearly \$44,000 in corporate taxes, but far more in terms of jobs during the construction of infrastructure and the facilities.

"When this building goes up, it will be a flag, a stake in the ground, that says 'something is going on here.'"

the next 20 years.

TTI designs and manufactures power tools and appliances under the brand names Milwaukee, Ryobi, HomeLite, Hoover, Oreck, Dirt Devil and others.

The company was founded in 1985 and employs approximately 20,000 worldwide. Revenue in 2015 exceeded \$5 billion.

Its connection to Anderson began with the Singer Corp., which manufactured sewing machines at the facility on Pearman Dairy Road. The company eventually became part of TTI.

Nelson said the planned facility, easily visible to I-85 traffic, has the potential to change the business perception of Anderson. "This is a game-changer in that it's an opportunity to showcase Anderson from the interstate," he said. "Most who drive up I-85 now see the rural countryside and have no idea that over 200 industries are here in Anderson County, and the population is approaching 200,000."

"When this building goes up, it will be a flag, a stake in the ground, that says 'something is going on here.'"

Follow Abe Hardesty on Twitter @abe_hardesty

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SYNNEX

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she said.

"To be able to have that kind of money to support the families and the patients that we serve is just incredible," Miller said. "We're forever thankful to them."

Share the Magic is a

year-long initiative during which money is raised through community events and culminated with a gala that features nationally-acclaimed entertainment and high-dollar silent and live auctions, a statement said.

About 80 percent of the money raised comes from sponsorships and the auction, said Velda Hughes, owner and CEO of the

Hughes Agency and a member of the 2016 Share the Magic steering committee.

Another 15 to 20 percent of the money raised comes from the special events held throughout the year, she said.

Larocque founded Share the Magic in 2011.

Its goal, he said, is to help children and to help families in need.

For the last six years, "I think we did a pretty good job at that," Larocque said.

The six-year grand total raised by Share the Magic is \$6,619,867, he unveiled Thursday.

"We had pretty good success last year and over the last six years," Larocque said. "Our efforts equal our success. And our success changes lives."

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