

Morning News

Darla Moore Foundation supporting future veterinarians

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Knights receive state championship rings

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Saturday, April 18, 2026 • Florence, South Carolina

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SNOW'S ISLAND



OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE, JEFF BLAKE

"Snow's Island," a few miles east of Johnsonville, was a refuge for Brig. Gen. Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox, and other patriots.

The Swamp Fox found a resting place where rivers meet

MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

For four winter months, a 5,000-acre island in Florence County was a refuge for South Carolina's own American Revolution hero, Brig. Gen. Francis Marion, and other patriots.

Known as "Snow's Island," it is highland surrounded by boggy swampland where the waters of the Great Pee Dee and Lynches rivers meet. It's a few miles east of Johnsonville.

Marion, dubbed the "Swamp Fox," was around age 48 when he managed to outwit the British armies while hiding there periodically.

"Marion and his brigade used this secluded site to rest, train, and regroup. After that, it became a key supply depot. Though surrounded by swamp, the actual camp sat on dry, elevated ground, shielded by dense canebrakes and vines. Trees were felled and bridges destroyed to prevent British pursuit, making it one of the safest Patriot hideouts in South Carolina," according to The Liberty Trail website.

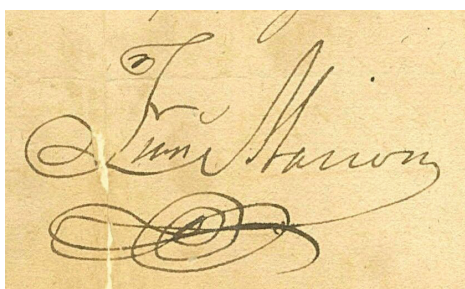
Marion used it as a hideout and base

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America at 250: The story still unfolding

This story is part of an ongoing series exploring the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. Visit our website to read other stories in the series and share your own.



FRANCIS MARION PAPERS, SOUTH CAROLINIANA LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The signature of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion on the Jan. 18, 1781 letter he sent from Snow's Island to Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene.

FMU Arts International Festival today

EMMY RIBERO
Staff Writer

FLORENCE — Francis Marion University's annual Arts International Festival is being held on FMU's main campus from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 18.

The Arts International Festival has been around in different forms since 1977, FMU Vice President of Institutional Advancement Lauren Stanton said. She's also executive director of the Education Foundation at Francis Marion.

The festival started as Art Alive in 1977. Then Florence started seeing industrial growth from international companies and an international festival "started as a result of those industries wanting to showcase their beautiful countries in a variety of fashions."

The festivals then combined with the international festival to become Art Alive International, Stanton said. Somewhere around 2010 it became the Arts International Festival.

"So when they were combined, we brought in different elements of art, we brought in different elements of international and that's kind of what we ended up with today," she said.

Admission to the festival is free and open to the public.

It will feature musicians and other performers throughout the day, along with interactive booths such as Academic Year in America and Geechee Gyal Baskets, as well as a children's area with other interactive booths.

Food trucks and local vendors will also be on site.

There will also be classes/workshops held that require registration. One is a Traditional Chinese Tea Workshop at noon and the other is Lightroom Classic Room Training by Mass Communications at 1 p.m. Registration is on the FMU website at fmarion.edu/artsinternational/

"We're always trying to find some way to make it new and innovative," Stanton said. "I would probably say the most unique portion of the festival this year is going to be the workshops, where individuals are going to be able to have a sushi making workshop and traditional Chinese tea ceremony workshop."

Entertainment schedule

- 11 a.m. — Kempertown Musicians
- 11 a.m. — FMU Choir
- 11 a.m. — Photography Lab Open
- 11:30 a.m. — Triangle Taiko, a traditional Japanese drumming group
- 11:45 a.m. — Bagpipes by Ahren Self, S.C. Native Ahren Self with a traditional Scottish bagpipe performance
- Noon — Hula Fire Entertainment, a family of professional hula and

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CITY OF FLORENCE

Business license changes considered

Plan is 'small business friendly'

GENE ZALESKI
Staff Writer

The City of Florence is seeking to amend its business license rates to protect smaller

and mid-sized businesses and to maintain a competitive business environment.

"We want to keep it more small business friendly," Florence Finance Director Glenn Bodenheimer said during the council's April 13 meeting.

Under the proposal, smaller

and mid-sized businesses will be able to receive discounts on their business license tax without reaching as high an annual revenue total.

Under the proposed amendment, businesses will be able to see discounts in their business license rates if they have

revenue of \$7 million and above.

The rules give greater tax discounts to businesses that produce more revenue.

The large majority of Florence small businesses would

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Deaths • A9

• Samuel Lee Gaskins -- San Francisco, California

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