

Morning News

Key races
for Senate,
governor and
Congress

B6



10 coaches
under the
most pressure

B8

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 • Florence, South Carolina

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CHAMPION FOR YOUTH



COURTESY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area Executive Director Neal Zimmerman, HopeHealth CEO Carl Humphries and BGC board member Richard Skipper are pictured after Humphries was honored as the 2026 Champion for Youth.

HopeHealth CEO honored by Boys & Girls Club

EMMY RIBERO
Staff Writer

FLORENCE, S.C. — The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area recognized Carl Humphries, HopeHealth CEO, as its 2026 Champion for Youth.

According to the club, the Champion for Youth is one of its highest honors.

“As a pillar of the community, we are proud to honor Carl as our 2026 Champion for Youth,” said Neal Zimmerman, executive director of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pee Dee Area in a release.

Humphries has led HopeHealth since 2000. He began his career as

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The BrightSide

The Bright Side highlights uplifting moments across our community. Visit our website to read more and share your ideas.

The Bright Side:
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South Carolina governor candidates to debate

USA TODAY NETWORK

Attorney General Alan Wilson and State Rep. Jermaine Johnson, D-Richland, are set to appear for a televised debate one month before the November general election.

South Carolina will have a new person in the governor’s mansion in January 2027. Gov. Henry McMaster will have served 10 years in office by the time his final term expires.

Gray Media-owned television stations in South Carolina

will broadcast a debate between Wilson and Johnson on Oct. 6. Gray Media owns several South Carolina stations, including FOX Carolina the Upstate. The debate will be hosted at WIS studios in Columbia, and it will air from 7-8 p.m.

The broadcast will be the first time the candidates from each political party will stand side by side for a debate. Each come from different political backgrounds, but they have a handful of platform

similarities including lowering the cost of living and improving infrastructure.

They differ on the topic of abortion, with Wilson supporting abortion restrictions and Johnson supporting reproductive healthcare. Both candidates support investing in the state’s public education system, while Wilson’s campaign focuses on expanding school choice.

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Alan Wilson (left) is projected to win the Republican nomination for South Carolina governor following a runoff election. He will face Democratic nominee Jermaine Johnson (right) in the general election.

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FLORENCE-DARLINGTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Grant awarded to boost electrician program

SPECIAL TO THE MORNING NEWS

Duke Energy Foundation is awarding a total of \$180,000 in grants to nine technical colleges across the state, including Florence-Darlington Technical College, to expand construction-related training, enhance

hands-on learning opportunities and support industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields.

“Projects like our new natural gas facility in Anderson County will help power South Carolina’s growth while creating good jobs

in the communities we serve,” said Tim Pearson, Duke Energy South Carolina president.

“The construction of that facility over the next few years will need potentially thousands of highly skilled trade workers to complete, and these grants will

help ensure local students and workers are prepared to compete for those opportunities,” he said.

Each of these schools received a \$20,000 grant that supports workforce training programs,

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Copperheads are active again across SC

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Weather

A couple of showers
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