

FCS stays unbeaten

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Game-changing 2Q lifts Bruins

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FMU board names facilities for trustees

SPECIAL TO THE MORNING NEWS

The Francis Marion University Board of Trustees held its quarterly last week at the FMU Freshwater Ecology Complex, where trustees approved the naming of two university facilities in honor of long-time board members.

The Kenneth W. Jackson Lecture Hall, located in the Hugh and Jean Leatherman Medical Education Complex in downtown Florence, will be named for Trustee Ken Jackson ('84).

Jackson has served on the FMU Board of Trustees since 1998, providing nearly

three decades of leadership to the university. During his tenure, he has served as board chair, vice chair and secretary.

He has also served on the FMU Alumni Association Board and has been recognized as both Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and School of Business Alumnus of the Year.

The George C. McIntyre Training and Fitness Center in the Smith University



Jackson



McIntyre

Center will be named for Trustee George McIntyre ('78). McIntyre has served on the FMU Board of Trustees since 1999, holding the positions of chair, vice chair and parliamentarian.

As a student, McIntyre was active in the Student Government Association, Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society, and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and was a member of the golf team. His professional accomplishments

were also honored through his recognition as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

"I am delighted that the Trustees have seen fit to honor Ken and George with the naming of these entities," FMU President Fred Carter said. "They are remarkable leaders who have served the university well. For nearly three decades, they have guided FMU through a sustained period of growth and prosperity."

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SOLAR MORATORIUM FAILS



EMMY RIBERO, STAFF

Darlington County residents on both sides of a proposed solar moratorium attended a County Council public hearing on the matter.

Darlington County Council weighs tighter project rules

EMMY RIBERO
Staff Writer

Darlington County Council failed to pass a second reading of an ordinance that would impose a nine-month moratorium on approvals for new solar or wind projects in the county.

The ordinance failed with five votes opposed and three in favor.

"The word moratorium is a dangerous word in economic development, in my opinion," Councilman David Coker, who voted against the ordinance, said. "Outside industries

look at words like moratorium and say, 'I don't know if they're apt to economic development.' They're nervous about it."

Coker further explained he voted not to pass the moratorium, but he intends to vote on stricter requirements for the developments in fee-in-lieu of taxes incentive agreements.

"I don't want not passing a moratorium to leave you thinking that we don't care or we don't respect your rights as neighbors or your rights as landowners," Coker said.

Councilman Kirk Askins said the main reason he supports the moratorium is the solar business has changed substantially since the original ordinance was passed and that more time is needed to catch up.

"So, a moratorium does not cancel solar projects, it doesn't ban them," Askins said. "It is simply a timeout where we can go back, review the ordinance, look at the current conditions and make good changes."

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FMU president highlights progress

SPECIAL TO THE MORNING NEWS

Francis Marion University President Fred Carter highlighted the university's continued growth and financial strength during a Board of Trustees meeting last week.

FMU's enrollment increased 3.1% this fall, exceeding projected growth rates across the university. The university added two new undergraduate programs in forestry and social work and the two newest doctoral programs -- the Doctorate in Psychology and the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy -- will graduate their first cohorts of students this year.

FMU boasts \$41 million in unallocated resources, while the FMU Education Foundation has an investment corpus exceeding \$62 million.

"Our enrollment is growing, our academic offerings continue to expand, and we have the financial security to continue investing in the university's future," Carter said. "That combination puts FMU in a strong position to build on the progress we've made and continue serving our students and this region for years to come."

Carter also provided an update on several major construction and development projects.

The 45,000-square-foot Forestry and Environmental Sciences Building is expected to be completed by late 2026 or early 2027. The building will provide classroom and laboratory space for the new forestry program as well as programs in environmental science.



Carter

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Stratton Drive townhomes planned

Panel recommends property's zoning

EMMY RIBERO
Staff Writer

The City of Florence Planning Commission is recommending that City Council approve neighborhood conservation zoning for a property on Stratton Drive

once it's annexed. A townhome development has been proposed for the site.

The property is a former tennis court located near West Lake Drive in West Florence. The property currently consists of the courts and vegetation.

The proposed development would consist of two buildings with five units in each. Parking

would be in front toward Stratton Drive.

Owner and developer Chris Langmo was present at the Planning Commission meeting.

"I met with the HOA, I got with the president and I got with the community, and you know, I had two separate meetings with them, and they're all on board with it," he told the commission.

"From their perspective, it seems like they're just happy to have kind of an eyesore cleaned up and to have something nice built," he said.

He also told the commission there were concerns about drainage, but he held a second meeting with the engineer present

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• Nantce Wright Nelson - Florence

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Weather

Partly sunny and not as hot
High: 87
Low: 61
Forecast: A8



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