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celebrates  
work at new  
school  
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HHA softball  
routs St. John's  
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## BATTLE OF EUTAW SPRINGS



T&D CORRESPONDENT LEE HENDREN/FILE PHOTO

Members of the South Carolina Society Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard fire musket volleys at the Eutaw Springs Battle Monument Park to commemorate the 243rd anniversary of the Battle of Eutaw Springs in 2024.

### Both sides claimed victory in South's last major battle

MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
T&D Staff Writer

Following the Battle of Eutaw Springs, both sides claimed they won.

The Battle of Eutaw Springs took place on Sept. 8, 1781, in what is now a portion of eastern Orangeburg County.

It was the last major battle in the South during the Revolutionary War and among the bloodiest, too.

For the British, it was a tactical victory, but the Patriots' strategy made them winners.

Commanders of both armies claimed victories, according to retired Kennesaw State University history professor Jim Piecuch.

Piecuch said the total area — including the battle site, outlying skirmish areas and camps — covered "several square miles."

"In a tactical sense, the British won; but in the long-term, big strategic sense, the Americans won," he said.

For the British, there were 693 losses. Those included 85 killed, 351 wounded and more than 500 captured or missing.

The Americans had 692 losses. Those included 251 killed, 367 wounded and 74 missing.

Piecuch noted that the outcome of the Battle of Eutaw Springs played a pivotal role in the Revolutionary War because "it marked the end of the whole British strategy of gaining control of the South Carolina interior."

The British strategy "totally unraveled" at Eutaw Springs, he said.

### 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.

"Their plan was to hold the South Carolina interior along the Santee River line, but after their losses, they realized they didn't have the strength to hold the interior line," he said.

Holly Hill native Dr. Robert Hart, a senior lecturer in the history department at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, said the battle started "In early September when British Col. Alexander Stewart began moving his troops, totaling about 2,000 men, northwest along the Old River Road from Moncks Corner and set up camp near the freshwater springs on Eutaw Creek.

"It was there that he was met by Gen. Nathanael Greene, southern commander of the Continental Army, who had led a force of 2,400 patriots from his command center at the High Hills of the Santee to halt Stewart's invasion."

Prior to the battle, Gen. Greene "managed to get within seven miles of British troops without the troops knowing it. However, some American deserters tipped them off," Hart said.

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## Bamberg County treasurer retires

### Rodeo coming to Ehrhardt

LEE HENDREN  
T&D Correspondent

Alice P. Johnson will step down as Bamberg County's treasurer on May 1 after nearly 18 years of service.

Her retirement was announced during the county council's monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 14. She cited health reasons.

South Carolina Gov. Henry D. McMaster learned of the impending resignation more than two weeks earlier.



Johnson

On March 27, the governor signed an executive order appointing Johnson's deputy, Candace B. Fralix, to serve as the county treasurer "until a successor shall qualify as provided by law."

An election for the office is set for Nov. 3.

Rosa Ray James and Cynthia S. McMillan signed up to seek the Democratic Party nomination. They will face off in the primary on June 9. The winner will face Fralix, who filed as a Republican Party candidate, in the general election.

The council also recognized Sgt. Frances Millhouse upon her retirement from the county detention center.

In his monthly report, County Administrator Joey Preston asked each council member to nominate two or three people to serve on focus groups that will develop a list of community needs.

Preston also announced that:

- He is trying to obtain an earmark in the state budget to pay for construction of a new building for the South Carolina Department of Social Services office in Bamberg County.
  - A groundbreaking ceremony for the courthouse will be held in mid or late June.
  - The inaugural Ehrhardt Pro Rodeo is expected to draw 1,500 to 3,000 visitors. It's set for Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2, at 1400 Julian Drive. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. and the show will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at Ehrhardt Pharmacy.
  - The animal shelter will sponsor a rabies vaccine clinic for dogs and cats on Saturday, May 2, from 8 until 10 a.m. Payment can be made in cash.
  - A memorial — funded by a \$100,000 grant from the South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250) — will be completed within 45 days in Bamberg.
- In other business:
- Brian Kune of the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership said Lean Six Sigma is a "methodology"

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## Purple Martin Festival continues

GENE ZALESKI  
T&D Staff Writer

The Purple Martin Festival is scheduled for this Saturday in the town of St. Matthews.

The parade will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday and the festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Calhoun County Courthouse grounds at 102 Courthouse Drive in St. Matthews.

State Sen. Jeffrey Zell, R-Sumter, will be the parade's grand marshal. The district represents the eastern portion of Calhoun County.

The parade will be judged in several categories including best overall, best community, best commercial and best vehicle.

The festival will include vendors such as local artisans,

food trucks, businesses and nonprofits.

In 1969, a few residents of St. Matthews became interested in finding a way to reduce the insect population, particularly mosquitoes. They purchased houses specifically for purple martins, which feed on mosquitoes.

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### Weather

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### COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER Adaptability

