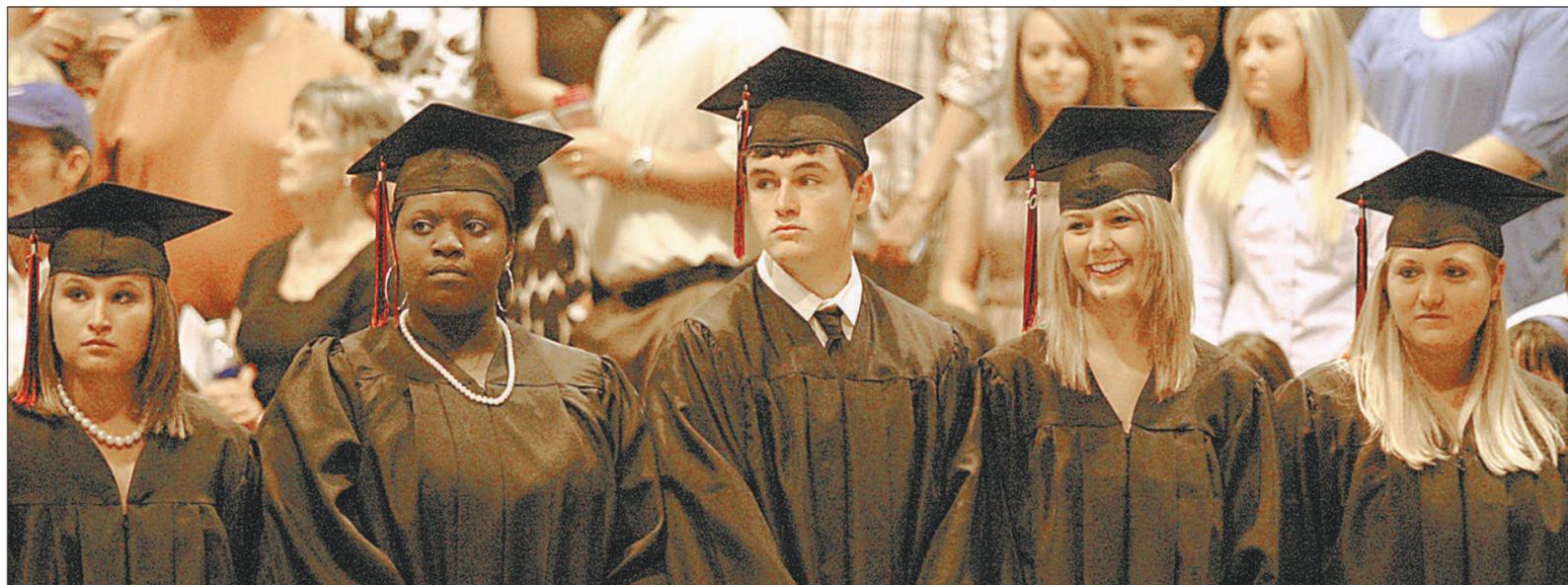


LIFESTYLES

McBee High graduates more than 60



McBee High School graduates line up during commencement exercises in the McBee High gym Saturday.

THE MESSENGER PHOTOS/LISA CHALIAN-ROCK

By Lisa Chalian-Rock
Editor

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McBEE — Sixty-eight seniors switched their tassels and received their high school diplomas on Saturday at McBee High School graduation in the school's gym with a standing-room-only crowd of friends and family watching.

Principal Dennis McDaniel said the ultimate goal of the program was to celebrate each graduate. In that celebration, honor graduates Stephanie Lynn Sarkany, Haylee Caroline Melton and Amber Elizabeth Lewis addressed their classmates as did Valedictorian Calin Lee Jowers and Salutatorian Taylor Zane Smith.

The overall theme of each speech was that of change. "Because we knew each other, we've all been changed for good," Smith said.

All expressed their gratitude for those teachers, parents, school staff and friends who helped them reach this milestone, as well.

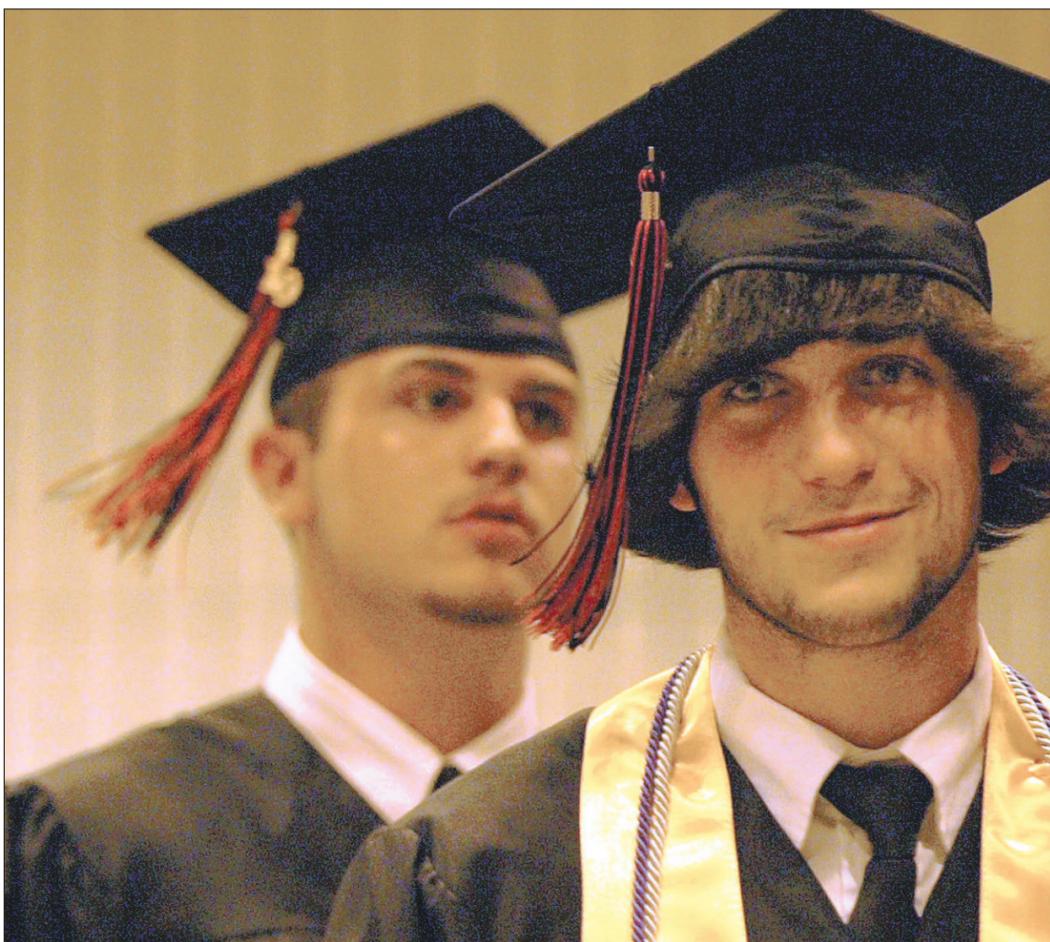
"Our teachers have rewritten the story of our lives," Melton said. "You have left a handprint on our hearts that will last for a lifetime."

The McBee High Chorus sang "For Good," and processional and recessional music was provided by Elaine Dickinson on piano.

All Chesterfield County high schools graduated on Saturday.



Graduates listen to several speeches before their diplomas are handed out.



McBee High School graduates rise to receive their diplomas on the stage at the school's gym on Saturday.

Hartsville Idol kickoff yields nine top singers

By Lisa Chalian-Rock
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Saturday night, music lovers from across the Pee Dee gathered in Burry Park to hear the first set of Hartsville Idol contestants perform. Of the 16 singing, only eight continue to the next round of the competition based on audience votes.

In a surprise move, the event organizers added a ninth, wild card, slot that was filled by Keonia Jett of Hartsville who sang "Everything to Me" by Monica. Jett will perform again on June 26.

The other eight contestants, who will move to the next round and perform again during one of the themed events on July 10, are Quinn Cable of Hartsville who sang "Independence Day" by Martina McBride; Chaquanna Williams of Florence who sang "Big Girls Don't Cry" by Fergie; Chris Dunlap of Hartsville who sang "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz; Garland Ballard of Hartsville who sang "Keep Your Hands to Yourself" by Georgia Settlement; Jason Andrews of Hartsville who sang "Black Cow" by Steely

Dan; Joshua Brigman of Hartsville who sang "If You Could Only See" by Tonic, accompanied by his guitar; Michelle Shoemake of Hartsville who sang "Stay" by Sugarland; and Billy Raffaldt of Ruby who sang "Hardworking Man" by Brooks & Dunn.

Other performers on Saturday included Nancy Stainback of Florence, Paige McElveen of Lamar, Yedda Price of Quinby, Chris James of Hartsville, Sterling Wright of Florence, Chris Graham of Timmonsville and Herelda Tompkins of Mullins. The SPC Pick of the Night was Billy Raffaldt of Ruby.

Another addition to the Hartsville Idol scene is a shuttle to parking around downtown.

"We have partnered with the Hartsville Family YMCA, Coker College, GSSM, Heritage Community Bank and the City of Hartsville to have safe and convenient parking during the run of Hartsville Idol,"



Jason Andrews



Garland Ballard



Joshua Brigman



Quinn Cable



Chris Dunlap



Keonia Jett



Billy Raffaldt



Michelle Shoemake



Chaquanna Williams

Lenora Lefew, executive director of Hartsville Downtown Development Association, said. "Our hope is for everyone to have safe parking along with easy access to the event."

From 6 to 10 p.m., the YMCA shuttle bus will pick

you and your lawn chair up at any one of nine monitored lots in the downtown area and drop you off at Burry Park.

Each stop will be marked with a red "Bus Stop" sign on Idol Saturdays.

The stops include the S.C. Governor's School front lot, the Coker College lot on Carolina Avenue across from the campus and the old Byerly Hospital, Coker College lot on College Avenue behind St. Bartholomew's church, First Baptist Church at the corner of Home Avenue and Fifth Street, the city lot on College Avenue between Lee's Café and Lulu's, the city lot on College Avenue behind Southern Candy Kitchen, the city lot on College Avenue behind Burry Bookstore, the city lot on Fifth Street behind Hobnob Gourmet and Heritage Community Bank lot on Fifth Street.

This week, Hartsville Idol continues from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. with another 16 singers vying for a chance to get to the next round.

There will be another chance to audition at 1 p.m. Saturday at Southern Candy Kitchen if you want to compete.

Performances can be solo, duets or trios of all ages. Entry fee is \$5.

The weekly singing competition will run throughout the summer at Burry Park each weekend through Aug. 7, with the exception of Fourth of July weekend and July 31, which is set aside as a rain date.

Round two will take place July 10 and 17, and the semi-final round will take place July 24, with the last 16 contestants performing songs from the 1970s and 1980s.

The final round on Aug. 7 will crown the 2010 Hartsville Idol, and the audience will determine which contestants receive first through fifth place.

For more information, contact Jeff Martin at (843) 332-3641 or Lenora Lefew at (843) 332-1600 or e-mail downtownhartsvil@bellsouth.net

Jana Longfellow contributed to this report.

Volunteers honored at dinner

Special to The Messenger

Darlington — Through a combined community effort, the Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County raised \$16,720 during the Super Follies! Dinner, Talent Show and Auction on May 15. The proceeds will be used to operate the two clinic sites to provide free primary care and medications to the patients of the Free Medical Clinic of Darlington County.

The event also honored the 258 clinic volunteers who make it all possible with a fun evening featuring local talent and good home cooking at Central Baptist Church in Darlington.

Emcees for the event were Todd Hardee and Wayne Byrd, and renowned auctioneer Archie Moody conducted the live auction. Mr. B's from Lydia provided a buffet meal.

Talent was provided by Sandy Hardee, guitar and song; Chicken Purlieu, Rob Jordan and band; Frances Edwards as Minnie Pearl; Rev. Andrew O'Dell, guitar and song; Henry Chapman Family, song;

See **Volunteers** page 3B