

# BUSINESS

## Forum

A Special Publication of The Easley Progress,  
Pickens Sentinel and Powdersville Post

### Thompson Income Tax Service moves to new location on Highway 123 in Easley

EASLEY - Thompson Income Tax Service held a ribbon cutting for their new location on Friday, January 14, 2011, and has been in business since 1996. The new location at 6907-E Calhoun Memorial Highway is now open and ready to serve.

Offering affordable tax services for individual and business taxpayers. The office is staffed with a receptionist and three income tax preparers. Thompson Income Tax Service is known for providing fast, friendly, professional service. Open for new clients including walk in's or by appointment to accommodate your schedule. Open on Saturdays during tax season.

Reba Revels Thompson, owner of Thompson Income Tax Service, is a lifelong resident of Easley. She graduated from Easley High School in 1983 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Southern Wesleyan University (formerly Central Wesleyan College) in 1986.

Susan Smith Daley graduated from Wren High School in 1983. Susan has 12 years of tax and bookkeeping experience and has an Associate's

See THOMPSON, Page 2A



Thompson Income Tax Service recently held a ribbon cutting for their new location at 6907-E Calhoun Memorial Highway in Easley. Pictured are, standing: Frances Revels, Tim Thompson, Reba Thompson, Teresa Edgar and Susan Daley. Seated: Emily, Erica and Elizabeth Thompson (daughters of Tim and Reba Thompson)

February, 2011  
Volume 1, Issue 7

### Index

Smithsonian Artists  
Displaying Work at  
The Reserve  
Page 3-4

Other Stories  
Burger King, Bojangles to  
build near new PHS site  
Page 2

Porter earns Personal  
Financial Rep Status  
Page 2

Pickens Savings and Loan  
Announces Earnings  
Page 3

Former CBS Anchor Jane  
Robelot speaks to Easley  
Chamber  
Page 6

Upstate College of Cosme-  
tology works with stu-  
dents' needs  
Page 7

## THOMPSON

Continued from Page 1A

degree in Business. Teresa Alexander Edgar graduated from Parker High School in 1981 has 10 years of tax and bookkeeping experience.

Frances Revels serves as receptionist and appointment scheduler.

She is retired from Shaw Industries (formerly BASF and Honeywell) where she had worked for nearly 37 years.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Business and loves working in the tax office.

Give Thompson Income Tax Service the opportunity to serve your tax and bookkeeping needs.

Clients always receive personalized one-on-one service.

Choosing a tax preparer is always a choice, remember Thompson Income Tax Service for your tax needs.

Call Frances at 859-1134 to schedule your appointment with Reba, Susan or Teresa.

# Piedmont Allstate Agent Earns Personal Financial Representative Status

## Wes Porter now offers additional financial services

PIEDMONT, SC - December 30, 2010 - Wes Porter is among an elite group of Allstate insurance agents who recently earned the "Personal Financial Representative" title. Porter will now be able to provide his customers variable annuity, variable life and mutual fund products, in addition to auto, homeowner and traditional life insurance products.

Porter received the Personal Financial Representative title after passing the Series 6 and Series 63 securities license exams and completing an extensive Allstate training curriculum.



After completing exhaustive training, Allstate Insurance Agent Wes Porter can now offer his clients a variety of financial services in addition to insurance. Call 277-4045 to find out how Wes and his team can help you.

He is appointed with the broker dealer All-

state Financial Services, LLC.

"Planning for the future is just as important as protecting yourself against a loss, which insurance is designed to do," Porter says.

"Our agency will continue to help people protect their autos, homes, lives and businesses," Porter continued.

"But now we can offer additional financial services products, like mutual funds, variable annuities and variable universal life insurance to help families plan wisely for the future."

Porter will provide a range of fixed, variable, indexed and market value adjusted annuity products, in addition to providing variable life products through Lincoln Benefit Life, and investment products.

The Wes Porter can be reached by phone at (864) 277-4045, via email at wesporter@allstate.com, or by logging onto the agency Web site at www.thewesporterteam.com.

### About the Allstate Corporation

The Allstate Corporation (NYSE: ALL) is the nation's largest publicly held personal lines insurer. Widely known through the "You're In Good Hands With Allstate®" slogan, Allstate is reinventing protection and retirement to help more than 17 million households insure what they have today and better prepare for tomorrow.

Consumers access Allstate insurance products (auto, home, life and retirement) and services through Allstate agencies, independent agencies, and Allstate exclusive financial representatives in the U.S. and Canada, as well as via www.allstate.com and 1-800 Allstate®.

# New Burger King, Bojangles reportedly to build near new Pickens High site

By Ben Robinson

PICKENS — The new Pickens High School which is currently under construction will reportedly bring at least two restaurants to the area.

Last week at the meeting of the Board of Trustees for the School District of Pickens County, a motion was passed to approve \$1,051,000 for necessary improvements. Part of those needed improvements involved the City of Pickens extending its sewer line

from Town Creek Plaza to the site of the new school.

The location of the new school is off S.C. Highway 178.

Board chair Alex Saitta noted that reports are that a new Burger King and Bojangles restaurants likely come to town once the improvements are made, in the area between Town Creek Plaza and the new school

"So we're seeing the investment of the school district benefit the city of Pickens," Saitta noted.



## New high school site attracts new construction

School district officials hope that, as construction of the new Pickens High School site nears completion, the area will be more attractive to new business and construction projects.

# First Citizens Promotes Jeff Stone to Financial Advisor, Assistant Vice President

COLUMBIA - First Citizens today announced that Jeff Stone has been promoted to Financial Advisor and Assistant Vice President. In this role, Stone will oversee clients' financial portfolios and assist clients in Anderson and Pickens counties. He will be based out of the bank's Easley office, located at 6539 Calhoun Memorial Highway.

Stone previously served as a Sales Assistant with First Citizens. Prior to joining First



**JEFF STONE**

Citizens in 2009, Stone was employed as a financial advisor at Waddell & Reed, Inc.

"We are thrilled Jeff has accepted this new role in the Anderson and Pickens markets," said Bill Harley, consolidated market executive for First Citizens' Clemson market. "He has a strong track record of helping clients make sound financial decisions, and we wish him well in this new role."

Stone received his bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University, located in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**About First Citizens**  
First Citizens Bancorporation, Inc., is the parent company of First Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Inc., and The Exchange Bank of South Carolina, Inc. First Citizens Bank offers services in commercial and retail banking through its more than 190 offices in South Carolina and Georgia. As of September 30, 2010, First Citizens Bancorporation, Inc. had total consolidated assets of \$8.56 billion. For more information, visit the First Citizens website at [www.firstcitizensonline.com](http://www.firstcitizensonline.com)

## Area Papers have new email addresses

UPSTATE- The Easley Progress, Pickens Sentinel and Powdersville Post recently switched over to new email addresses and we want to make sure none of your business news or other news gets lost in the transition.

To that end, Please send us your business news, and other news items by using new these addresses. For The Easley Progress, use [epnews@heartlandpublications.com](mailto:epnews@heartlandpublications.com). For the Sentinel, use [psnews@heartlandpublications.com](mailto:psnews@heartlandpublications.com). For the Post, please email [postnews@heartlandpublications.com](mailto:postnews@heartlandpublications.com).

The Easley Progress and Powdersville Post are headquartered at 205 Russell Street in Easley. Call 855-0355 for any assistance.

The Pickens Sentinel now calls 205 Garvin Street in Pickens home. Call 878-2453.

Ben Robinson is the Editor of the Easley Progress.

Nathan DiBagno is the Editor of the Powdersville Post.

Jason Evans is the Editor of the Pickens Sentinel.

# Pickens Savings and Loan Announces Earnings

PICKENS - Pickens Savings and Loan Association, FA, announced earnings for the quarter ending December 31, 2010, of \$136,000, a slight increase over the same quarter last year.

In addition, earnings for the nine months ending December 31 were \$391,000, also a slight increase over last year.

The Association's fiscal year will end March 31, 2011. G. Alex Gettys, Jr., President of the Association, indicated that being a local bank has had its advantages over the past couple of years.

"We are fortunate that we know our market and our customers, and we continue to be

able to work closely with them in a difficult local economy," he stated.

Gettys also cited the hard work of his Board of Directors and staff as the reason for continued success.

He added, "our Board has been very supportive and has given us the tools to work through these unusual times."

Randy Griffin, a member of the Association's Board of Directors, believes that communication has been the key to managing a bank in a down economy. "The Board has empowered our management team to do whatever is necessary to remain a strong and stable force in

See EARNINGS, Page 5

**GET THE BEST RETURN FOR YOUR MONEY**

**Maximum Refunds  
Reasonable Rates  
Electronic Filing  
Refund Anticipation Check**

**National Finance Company**  
115 West Main Street • Easley, SC  
**855-5775**  
Starting January 14th  
Walk in or by Appointment

# Smithsonian Artists Rosa and Winton Eugene display work at The Reserve at Lake Keowee

## Couple to serve as Guest Artists through February 24

*SUNSET* – *American Craft* magazine calls Rosa and Winton Eugene “a marriage of making”.

The Smithsonian Institute in New York calls them members of the African-American Design Archive (AADA).

And The Reserve at Lake Keowee residents and collectors Sam and Gail Glenn just call them “amazing”.

These self-taught potters from Cowpens, S.C., have, over the course of 25 years, carved out their own niche in pottery that Lynn Robertson, director of the McKissick Museum in Columbia, S.C., calls “unique and distinguishable from other Southern potters”, and will, on March 26, 2011, participate with other master craftsmen at Washington, D.C.’s James Renrick Alliance Spring Craft Weekend and benefit auction, held directly across the street from The White House.

In the meantime, Rosa and Winton Eugene’s work – known as Pottery by Eugene – is on display in The Hill House Gallery at The Reserve at Lake Keowee until February 24.

The gallery is open to the public every Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and every Friday by appointment.

Those interested in seeing Pottery by Eugene should call ahead of their visit – (864) 481-4010.

Hill House Gallery is located at 534 Pine Grove Church Road in Sunset, S.C., approximately 20 minutes’ north of Clemson University of Highway 133.

“We are ecstatic to have the Eugenes as Guest Artists over the next couple of months. We’ve been planning this for over a year and couldn’t be more excited to expose this nationally-recognized work – and these incredibly accomplished local artists – to our Members and the greater community,” said Kathryn Gravely, executive director of The Reserve at Lake Keowee Community and Charitable Foundation.

The Community Foundation is sponsoring the Guest Artist and has historically been responsible for The Reserve community’s annual Artist-in-Residence Program.

Rosa remarks in the couple’s Artist Statement, “Winton loves design and I am captured by shapes and colors. In our creative

dance, we combine these passions so that the final product moves with balance and harmony. It starts with clay and ends with glaze, and the design and shapes are tested by fire. The endless love of clay, the imagination and the passions of creating will always make ‘Fire’.”

The story of Pottery by Eugene is as grassroots and authentic as any you will likely hear.

In 1986, Winton Eugene retired at the age of 45 and, as his wife Rosa puts it, “needed a hobby”.

Rosa, her son, and her daughter gave Winton a potter’s wheel and kiln, bought from an architect in Atlanta, on Christmas of that year.

In six months’ time, Winton had read copious books on pottery and had amassed a garage-full of pieces of greenware.

While he had a knack at the creation, his weakness was in the finishing touches: glazing, foremost among those. Enter Rosa.

Rosa was a natural at glazing and agreed to glaze all of Winton’s pottery, “so long as I got to choose the color,” Rosa recalls.

And the rest is, as they say, history.

The Eugenes sold their first pieces at Greenville’s Freedom Weekend Aloft that first year, earning \$300 for their wares.

They soon went on to befriend other crafters and attend up to 36 craft shows per year at their height.

They now only exhibit at the most profitable and well-attended shows – six, in total, each year.

The couple enjoys a successful retail, mail order, and commission business.

The Glenns, Reserve members for only a year, encountered the Eugenes more than 15 years ago at a Waterford, Va.-based craft show.

Gail Glenn, a former antique shop owner, was immediately drawn to the reliefs carved into the sides of Pottery by Eugene, one of the signature elements of the artists’ technique.

“When we moved to The Reserve,” Gail recounts, “I realized that Cowpens wasn’t very far, so I looked up the Eugenes. Rosa called me back, and we visited them in their gallery. I purchased several pieces, and we commissioned a platter from them. The platter has our home at The Reserve carved

into it.

“When I learned about the interest The Reserve’s Foundation has in local artists, I introduced them to the Eugenes’ work and said it’d be great if, one day, we could get them here,” Glenn continued.

To learn more about the Eugenes and their work, read the recent feature in *American Craft* magazine, visit their work on display at The Reserve, or make an appointment to visit their gallery, located at 176 Wilkins Avenue in Cowpens, S.C., by calling (864) 463-4217.

The gallery is open each May and December, and otherwise by appointment only.

### About The Reserve at Lake Keowee

The Reserve spans 30 miles of shoreline on Lake Keowee with convenient access to Greenville, Asheville, and Clemson University, and more than \$100 million in completed family amenities including a 200-slip

Marina and Village Center, Guest House, Pool Complex and Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course.

The community has approximately 650 members from 30 different states. Members and their extended families—including parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren – enjoy club privileges under the new, multi-generational Legacy Membership program.

The Reserve was created in 2000 by Greenwood Communities and Resorts, and features 3,900 acres in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains including 1,400 acres of parks, preserves, trails and green space. Homesites begin in the \$100,000s.

To learn more, call 877-922-LAKE (5253), visit [www.ReserveAtLakeKeowee.com](http://www.ReserveAtLakeKeowee.com), or read the official community blog at [www.LifeOnKeowee.com](http://www.LifeOnKeowee.com).



Winton and Rosa Eugene are displaying their nationally-recognized pottery at The Reserve at Lake Keowee's Hill House Gallery through February 24.

## EARNINGS

Continued from Page 3

the community. They keep us up to date on the issues, and because we are a local organization, we can respond quickly to the needs of our customers and our institution.” Griffin added that the Association con-

tinues to make home mortgage and other types of loans and has a wide variety of options available to its customers. Total assets for the Association on December 31 were about \$106,000,000.

For more information concerning Pickens Savings and Loan, log onto [www.pickenssavingsandloan.com](http://www.pickenssavingsandloan.com).



# U.S. Engine Valve donates to Tri-County Technical College's Mechatronics Program

U.S. Engine Valve made a donation in support of equipment for the Mechatronics program at Tri-County Technical College.

The two joint owners of U.S. Engine Valve donated \$7,500 from the Eaton Charitable Fund and \$7,500 from Nittan Valve Company towards the purchase of EM614/600-Air Advanced Electronics Sensors Systems with Ejection/Sorting Stations to support the Mechatronics Program. Pictured here at left are, from left, Rob Griffin, plant manager; Lamar Dendy, a maintenance technician at the plant and a student in the College's Mechatronics curriculum; Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, president of Tri-County; Mary Ann Craft, human resource manager at U.S. Engine Valve; Keizo Harada, technical manager for Nittan; John Lummus, vice president for economic and institutional advancement at Tri-County; and Elisabeth Gadd, director of development for Tri-County.

U.S. Engine Valve is a member of the College's World Class Training Center and since 1989 has been a strong supporter of the College Foundation, having endowed a scholarship and provided funding for professional development and equipment.

## Upstate College of Cosmetology

### Full service salon and college



Flexible schedule

Flexible Payment Plans

Day and Night Classes

Students and customers welcome!

Open Daily!

1729 Powdersville Road A&B Easley, SC 29642

**(864) 269-6881**

*February Special*

*Perms*

**\$22.50** for medium length

**\$27.50** for long hair

*must present coupon at time of service*

**1** CHECK OUR PRICES  
BEFORE YOU USE THAT  
COUPON **1**

**Complete Tax Returns from \$60  
including FREE E-file**



TERESA EDGAR, REBA THOMPSON, SUSAN DALEY

**SERVING THE EASLEY AREA SINCE 1996**

WALK-INS WELCOME

**THOMPSON INCOME TAX SERVICE**

6907-E CALHOUN MEMORIAL

HIGHWAY

EASLEY, SC

**(864) 859-1134**

## Former CBS anchor Jane Robelot recounts career highlights

By Nathan DiBagno

EASLEY — Former CBS news anchor and two-time National Emmy Award winner Jane Robelot has interviewed the Clintons, traveled to Havana during Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba, and covered the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombings. But the most interesting people she's met aren't necessarily the famous people, she said during the chamber's luncheon at Dunburks in Easley.

"Who are the most interesting people you've interviewed? They're people you've never heard of," she said Thursday during an Easley Chamber luncheon at DunBurks.

Take, for instance, the rescue workers who risked their lives to try to save people after the Oklahoma City bombings.

"It looked like a monster had taken a bite out of the side of the Murrah Building," she said, recounting her experience when she first arrived on scene after the bombings. "You could see the layers of the floors of the office spaces. And ... you could see these tiny bits of yellow speckled throughout. And those were the rescue workers. They wouldn't come out. They were in that building, and they were desperate to find survivors."

Afterward, she said she chose not just to focus on "who did this and why," but on the heroics of the rescue workers, she said.

"Their lives were at risk, because

the building wasn't safe," she said. "It was still shifting."

Robelot remembers working there for about 72 hours with virtually no sleep. It was during that time she saw some of the most remarkable acts of selflessness.

"I saw the best of humanity in the worst situation I had ever covered as a journalist," she said. "The people of Oklahoma City began immediately making chili, and casseroles, and salads, and taking them to the three local news stations. Because they knew that those news people were not be able to go home and go out to eat or get anything to take care of themselves. They brought blankets when they realized the national media was coming. They took care of us in the middle of all of that."

Robelot also discussed how the media has changed over the years.

She recalls covering Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba in 1998, the pope's first visit to the communist country since Fidel Castro was in power.

"Remember what was going on back here? Some of you are probably scratching your heads, saying: 'I remember a little bit about the Pope being in Havana. I remember that there was a lot of media there, and then they all went home unexpectedly. Do you remember why? That's when the Monica Lewinsky story broke. So everyone left Havana and went to Washington to cover that. ... These types of decisions make you scratch



Photo by Nathan DiBagno

### Robelot speaks at Chamber Luncheon

Former CBS Anchor Jane Robelot recently shared highlights of her news career, including covering Pope John Paul II's visit to Havana, Cuba, with Easley Chamber members at a recent Chamber Luncheon. Robelot now lives in the Greenville area.

your head and go: 'Did we choose the right thing there?'"

Robelot says she began wanting to get out of the business after being married and when the industry began to change.

She moved to Atlanta at a CBS affiliate, and worked there for a while, and later decided to move back to the Greenville area.

"I think that my priorities shifted at about the time that my business really

started changing," she said.

Easley Chamber President Kent Dykes said Robelot is still well known in the Greenville area.

"A lot of us know her for her work around here, at Channel 4 and with Clemson University," he said.

Robelot said she especially enjoyed being able to work in her hometown.

"It was such a thrill to be telling stories that I grew up in about people that I knew," she said.

## Easley's Upstate College of Cosmetology works with students' individual needs and schedules

EASLEY – Are you a creative person who enjoys keep up with the latest trends in hair, nail and skin care?

Are you looking for a career filled with opportunities in a growing field?

Then the Upstate College of Cosmetology might just be what you've always been looking for.

If you think you don't have time to attend a cosmetology school, think again.

The instructors at Upstate College of Cosmetology know that today's students need a school that allows them a flexible class schedule.

That's why Upstate College of Cosmetology offers Day and Evening classes with both full-time (10 months) and part-time (flexible up to two years).

The staff at the UCC will do everything possible

to work out a schedule that fits the individual students' needs.

Cosmetology is the exciting career of hair/design, hair color, hair shaping, make-up, manicures, pedicures, skin care, etc. UCC also teaches Your Professional Image as well as Effective Communication, Human Rela-

tions and Your Professional Attitude and How to Be Successful. Students are taught by Milady Standard.

At the UCC, you'll get the hands on training you'll need to become a successful cosmetologist.

Instructors require all students wishing to attend the UCC to have completed the 10th grade and be at least 16 years old by graduation date. Proof of education is required.

Your UCC tuition include all educational supplies, your cosmetology kit - everything you need to do hair/skin/nails- and all products.

UCC offers zero percent financing and discounts on tuition if tuition is paid in full at the time of enrollment.

The Upstate College of Cosmetology is located at 1729 Powdersville Road, Suites A & B, Easley.

Call 269-6881 today to find out how you can attend the UCC and set out on the road to becoming a cosmetologist!

And be sure to visit their website at [www.visitucc.com](http://www.visitucc.com).

Owner Sharon Watson and Manager Kathleen Riccetelli at the Upstate College of Cosmetology believe that if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life!



**Insure it all.  
Prices fall.**

**Wes Porter  
(864) 277-4045**

7704 AUGUSTA RD  
PIEDMONT  
WesPorter@allstate.com

Save big when you combine your car insurance with home, boat, motorcycle & more. Call me today.



Insurance and discounts subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company and Allstate Fire And Casualty Insurance Company: Northbrook, Illinois © 2010 Allstate Insurance Company.

# COPD

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE

## Do you suffer from COPD, Emphysema or Bronchitis?

*If you suffer from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), shortness of breath or chronic cough, we are enrolling Adults (40 years or older) who are current or former smokers to participate in ongoing research studies.*

### Qualified Participants will receive at no cost:

- Study Related Medical Examinations
- Study Medication
- Compensation for Time and Travel

*For more information and to see if you qualify please call*

**PALMETTO MEDICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.**

**201 South B St Easley, SC 29640**

**Phone: 864-307-1300**