

Lancaster County's triweekly newspaper

# The Lancaster News

www.thelancasternews.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017

## Big Thursday brings in \$40K for scholarships

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The Big Thursday Scholarship of Lancaster Inc. said Wednesday it raised \$40,000 in this year's scholarship drive, bringing the total amount raised in 17 years to \$544,600.

The money goes to Lancaster County students who attend Clemson University or USC Lancaster. The scholarships are split between the universities, with \$20,000 going to each school this year.

"It was a very successful

year," said Evan Scott, Big Thursday Scholarship Committee chairman. "It comes down to the support of the Clemson and Gamecock fans. Everybody puts their emotions on the shelf, and they raise scholarships for kids."

The scholarship program began in 2000, and last year the committee brought in \$30,000 for each university – the highest amount to date. The previous year, USCL and Clemson each received \$27,500.

See **BIG THURSDAY** | Page 2

## Big Thursday

>>FROM 1

Dr. Walt Collins, dean of USCL, said he is thankful to continue adding to the scholarship fund.

"We are grateful for all the people who pulled it off this year," Collins said. "The funds continue to grow."

The program brings in money through its annual golf tournament, which is held the week before the Clemson-South Carolina football game each fall. Last year's tournament drew 40 golfers and raised \$1,200.

Other contributions come through annual donations by individual and corporate sponsors.

Each year, funds are equally split between universities and presented to students from each of the four high schools in

the county who will attend one of the universities. Students are awarded up to \$4,000 per year. There are currently 25 county students on scholarship at Clemson, 37 at USCL.

"It's been very successful," said Rodney Scott, chairman of the Lancaster County Clemson Club. "Big Thursday has meant a lot to the students from Lancaster County who attend Clemson."

Clemson scholarship recipients are selected by Lancaster County Partners for Youth. USCL recipients are selected by the school's scholarship committee.

The scholarship drive is named for the early history of the Clemson vs. South Carolina football rivalry. From 1896 to 1959, the two universities met on Thursdays in Columbia for the annual game.