

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

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Wednesday, August 30, 2023

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County student taken into

It's been a great time

JOAN YATES
Editor – The Link

By the time most of you read this, The Link newspaper will have a new editor. You have given me the honor of bearing that title for nearly eight years, almost half of the life of The Link.

More than that, you have given me the honor of getting to know you – councils, commissions, law enforcement, fire departments, civic organizations and individuals. You have told me your stories, and we have laughed, cried, celebrated and prayed together. You have let me be your chaplain.

Since Nov. 2, 2015, I have



Joan Yates

tried to uphold the goals of founding editor Leighton Bell: to tell the truth, to tell it accurately and to tell it without bias in so far as I possibly could. Sometimes I did

that better than other times.

Leighton was a great role model, and I had the privilege of working with him from the beginning of The Link, back when his “desk” was the top of a file cabinet because there was not yet a newspaper office. Fortunately, LB was tall enough to see the screen of his laptop.

In those early days, my job was to handle the front desk and to be the newspaper proofreader.

Then one day, owner Jane Pigg dropped a half-inch-thick packet on my desk and said, “I want you to call every one of these businesses

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YATES

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and sell them an ad in the next three weeks.”

My heart stopped.

But I began my career as a salesperson that day, which continued when we moved to Horry County, and I worked remotely in sales and as proofreader.

In God’s timing, The Link needed an editor in the fall of 2015, and I needed a job.

We’ve shared a lot since then. We’ve known births and deaths. Children’s first

day of school and college graduations. Celebrations and sorrows. We have laughed and cried together, shared Scripture and prayed together.

Now it’s time for The Link to thrive under the leadership of a new editor. I can’t wait until you meet her next week. You will love her, and she will do an outstanding job.

“The Lord bless you and

keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his counte-

nance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).



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