

Sunday
July 23, 2017

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Everything about Haile mine is just ginormous

On the road again, just 20 miles from home this time, to Haile Gold Mine.

The OceanaGold Corp. project is a sight to see, and it's right here in Lancaster County, just east of Kershaw.

My grandson Thomas Bailey has been working there for going on two years now.

Thomas knew that I've been wanting to take a tour of the place. I heard some politicians had been going there from time to time, but I'm surely not one of those!

One day Thomas drove up in my yard and exclaimed, "Pop, I think I got you a tour of the Haile Gold Mine." To which my response was, "The Haile you say!"

The tour was June 24. It was Family Day for relatives of Haile Gold Mine employees. Thomas got us six passes – two for me and my friend Martha Hendrix, two for his parents, and one for my son and his 9-year-old daughter.

The work is fun to Thomas, but it is very grueling. He works seven straight 12-hour days on first shift. Then after three days off, he swings around to second shift – the night shift – and works another seven 12-hour days. Then he gets another three-day break.

The day of the family event, he was on duty, but management told him (and others) that they could spend up to 90 minutes with their families and show them around the site.

Thomas met us at the main gate, and we registered our names and watched a short safety video. To our amazement, the tent structure had air conditioning and two hanging chandeliers!

We were then escorted to a 16-passenger van waiting to

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Guest Column



SHERRILL C. MULLIS



Plentiful rains produce eye-popping vegetables

Kelly Morrissette

For The Lancaster News

For local farmers gathered Thursday at two Lancaster County Farmers Markets, it's been a fantastic growing season, thanks to plentiful rainfall at regular intervals.

Their tables looked like food-magazine covers, packed with gorgeous green beans, yellow squash, red and green pep-

pers, green onions, pink peaches, plump watermelons and purple eggplant.

For the first time, the county held a second market, this one downtown, from 4-7 p.m. at the parking lot of the county administration building, in addition to the usual market on Pageland Highway.

Turnout for the downtown market was excellent, said county Planning Director Penelope Karagounis. About 185 shoppers attended, and two of the three farmers selling produce were sold out by 5:45.

"It was a great turnout... beyond what we expected," she said. "It was remarkable seeing people walk from downtown neighborhoods."

One more downtown market will be held this summer, on Aug. 10. Karagounis said that one will include an ice cream truck.

Andy Rollins, an extension agent with Clemson University, said the county's farmers and shoppers have been fortunate this year. Rainfall has varied farm to farm, but we've averaged one inch per

week in much of the county. That has kept the crops from having to go through heat stress.

Local farmer Poncho Velvel, who cultivates 33 acres, said he has gotten less rain than many nearby farms, but his crops have been good and he has no complaints. His cucumbers, squash and tomatoes have been especially successful.

Customer Donna Heath was impressed with the selection and prices at the market Thursday. She was out running errands with her 95-year-old mother and decided to pick up some produce.

"Because of her age, she likes to eat healthy food all the time, so she comes to this market weekly to get something to eat," Heath said. Her mother enjoys watermelons, peaches, and cabbage with okra.

During peak season, through the end of August, the county's main farmers market at 1920 Pageland Highway is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Poncho Velvel of Poncho's Farm in Lancaster holds a massive 40-pound watermelon for sale at his produce stand at the farmers market downtown Thursday.



photos by HANNAH STRONG/hstrong@thelancasternews.com

Shoppers peruse vegetables at a special farmers market at the county administration building on Main Street Thursday. The market will open in that location again Aug. 10.

GOOD MORNING!

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Holy Convocation

Kingdom of God Church International, 691 S.C. 9 Bypass E., Lancaster, will hold its Holy Convocation 2017 at 4 p.m. July 23. The theme is "God's Next Move." Bishop Lorenzo Coleman of Heath Springs, Apostle Kenneth Johnson of Richmond, Va., and Prophet Joseph Waller of Detroit will speak. For details, call (803) 289-1284.

Mega Miracle Conference

Breath of Life International Ministry Pastors Thomas and Felicia Izzard will host an apostolic and prophetic Mega Miracle Conference at 5:30 p.m. July 23 at Springdale Recreation Center, 260 Plantation Road, Lancaster. Prophet Nobin Samson from London and Prophet Dr. Rohan Rambally from Trinidad and Tobago will speak.

Playhouse auditions

The Community Playhouse of Lancaster County will hold auditions for its production of "Little Shop of Horrors" 6-8 p.m. July 24-25 at the Springs House, 210 W. Gay St., Lancaster. Attendees should be prepared for a cold

read and arrange a musical selection. No a cappella performances allowed. Performance dates are Oct. 6-8 and 12-17.

NTACT Band & Show

As part of Lancaster's Finally Friday series, the NTACT Band & Show will perform during a free outdoor concert at 6 p.m. July 28 at 216 S. Catawba St., Lancaster. For details, visit www.lancastercitysc.com.

Kershaw Open

The Kershaw Open will begin at 8 a.m. July 29-30 at the Kershaw Golf Course, 301 Club House Drive, Kershaw. Dinner and a Flighting Party will follow round one on Saturday and awards will be given after round two on Sunday. Players are flighted based on score following round one. Prizes include \$225 for first place in each flight, \$100 for second place, \$50 for third place and different cash prizes for closest to the pins on Par 3 holes. Entry fees are \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members. For details, call Logan Sowell at (803) 235-0364.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Freedom Free Will Baptist Church



KAYLA VAUGHN/kvaughn@thelancasternews.com

Earlier this week, Freedom Free Will Baptist Church sent this wonderfully humorous message to Buford residents and passers-by. If your church has a fun, catchy message to share, send a photo to news@thelancasternews.com.

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST

Today	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 95 Low 73	High 93 Low 72	High 92 Low 71	High 90 Low 70	High 90 Low 72
Partly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms	Partly cloudy with a 60 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms	Partly cloudy with a 60 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms	Partly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of scattered thunderstorms

Church News

Week Ahead Holy Convocation

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Car show, back-to-school bash postponed

Gethsemane Baptist Church's back-to-school

Vacation Bible Schools

◆ Antioch Baptist Church, 1734 Antioch Church Road, Lancaster, will hold its "Galactic Starveyors" Vacation Bible School 5:30-8:30 p.m. July 25-28, with a commencement ceremony on July 29. Registration begins at 5:15 p.m. each day and classes are offered for ages toddler through adult. To register, visit www.abclancaster.com. For details, call (803) 285-3922.

◆ First Presbyterian Church, 700 N. Main St., Lancaster, will hold a half-day Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 5. It is for children ages 5K-5th grade. For details or to register, call (803) 283-3329 by July 28.

bash and car and motorcycle show originally scheduled for July 22 has been postponed until a later date. School supplies will be given away.

The car and motorcycle show costs \$10 per vehicle to enter and there is a \$25 vendor's fee. All proceeds benefit the church. For details, call (803) 579-4701.

Five-week summer camp

Heath Springs Baptist

Church, 101 S. Main St., Heath Springs, will hold a five-week "Roots" children's summer camp from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. every Tuesday now through Aug. 8. Courses are for ages 5-12 and include games, crafts, food and learning. For details, call Maggie Partridge at (706) 401-6189.

Hat program

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 929 Rocky River Road, Lancaster, will hold a Hat Day service at 2 p.m. July 23. Attendees are asked to wear their best hats. For details, call (803) 235-9242.

Mount Nebo anniversary

The Usher Board of Mount Nebo Baptist Church, 269 Nebo Road, Lancaster, anniversary celebration is 2:30 p.m. July 23. The Rev. Damian Young of Crossroads Baptist Church will speak.

Covenant sports camp July 24-28

Covenant Baptist Church, 165 Craig Manor Road, Lancaster, will hold a sports camp from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. July 24-

28. It offers basketball for ages 8-12, ultimate Frisbee for ages 8-12, soccer for ages 6-12 and cheerleading for ages 6-12. Attendees will also learn about the life of Apostle Paul. The cost is \$25 per child. To register, visit www.cbclancaster.org or pick-up a form in the church office.

Free community meal July 24

Hyde Park Baptist Church, 1898 Flat Creek Road, Lancaster, has a free community meal at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month. The next meal is July 24.

Red Hill revival July 24-26

Red Hill Baptist Church, 2020 Red Hill Road, Lancaster, will hold revival services at 7 p.m. July 24-26. The Rev. Ricky Haile, pastor of New Zion Baptist will speak.

Pleasant Dale clothes closet

Pleasant Dale Baptist Church, 133 S. Potter Road, Lancaster, will hold a free clothes closet 9-10:30 a.m. July 29. For details, call (803) 283-8377.

North Corner Chinese auction

North Corner AME Zion Church, 3754 E. North Corner Road, Lancaster, will hold a Chinese auction at 4 p.m. July 29 in the fellowship hall. All proceeds benefit the church.

Temple Baptist singing July 30

Temple Baptist Church, 1202 Old Landsford Road, Lancaster, will hold a singing at 5 p.m. July 30. It will feature the Gospel Truth Trio, followed by fellowship and finger foods. All are welcome.

Sunday night singing July 30

Sherwood Baptist Church, 1030 Darlene Blvd., Lancaster, will hold a fifth Sunday night singing at 6 p.m. July 30. Danny O'neal and One Step Closer will perform and a love offering will be collected.

Mount Zion revival services

Mount Zion Baptist Church, 6097 Flat Rock Road, Heath Springs, will hold its annual revival services at 7 p.m. July 30-

Aug. 2. The Rev. Kenneth Cauthen of Mount Nebo Baptist Church will speak and choirs from the community will perform each night.

Brown Bag Bible Study

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 2393 New Hope Road, Heath Springs, will hold its Brown Bag Bible Study at noon every Wednesday. Attendees are asked to bring a lunch. All are welcome.

Intercessory prayer outreach

Bright Light Baptist Church, 4469 Kershaw Camden Highway, Heath Springs, hosts an intercessory prayer outreach at 10 a.m. every Tuesday. Everyone is welcome to attend. For details, call (803) 285-8819.

To add church news to this listing, e-mail it to news@thelancasternews.com, fax it to (803) 283-8969, or mail it to The Lancaster News, P.O. Box 640, Lancaster, SC 29721. Events run on a chronological, first-come, first-served basis, as space allows. Deadlines are noon Monday for Wednesday editions, noon Wednesday for Friday editions and noon Thursday for Sunday editions.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Sherrill Mullis and his friend Martha Hendrix are dwarfed by the tires of a 100-ton dump truck used to haul rock from "the pit" to the processing plant at Haile Gold Mine, which they toured June 24.

Mullis

>>FROM 1B

take us on the tour. Our driver had a foreign accent and he told me he was originally from New Zealand, where Australia-based OceanaGold has other mining operations. The "bloke" was a friendly fella who really knew a lot about the company's history and how the process works to extract the gold.

"The pit" was our first stop. It was at least 100 meters deep, if not more. The company uses the old tried-and-true method that was most likely used back in the old days of Haile Gold Mine - dynamite.

After setting off an explosion, the workers use excavators, bulldozers, front-end loaders and huge 100-ton dump trucks to haul the rocks containing ore to the processing plant.

I sat there watching from far away in amazement. It looked to me like the biggest hole in South Carolina. And all that equipment looked like little toys. Our driver told us that the mine covers 4,500 acres, and OceanaGold most likely will purchase even more land. The project is expected to last another 20 to 25 years, he said.

After driving us several miles around the mine, he carried us to see the processing of the ore. The best way I could explain this process is like old grandma's rolling pin.

There were three ginormous rollers they call tumblers with "knobbies" on them, and the ore moves through on a conveyor belt and is pulverized, eventually reaching a powder-like consistency. The driver showed us

a supply of what looked like cannon balls shot in the civil war. He said these steel balls roll around with the rocks as they go through the tumblers to help pulverize the ore.

Unfortunately, the lab was not included in our tour. Guess that's where all the secrets of the gold mine are kept under lock and key. I suppose that was for the best. I might have tempted to slip a bar of that gold in my pocket when the tour guide and security guard were not looking.

Family Day included a free lunch. The company had hired local caterers to provide hot dogs and hamburgers, desserts and ice cream. The ice cream was served in delicious hot waffle cones that they cooked right in front of you! Mmmmm.

We left with a gift bag that contained a koozie, a nifty flashlight and a brochure full of Haile Gold Mine facts. The brochure says the mine currently has about 400 workers, with 89 percent of them hired locally. The annual payroll is \$21 million. The company has invested \$660 million here, including \$380 million in construction costs.

On Jan. 19, the mine produced its first gold - a 445-ounce bar. The company plans to process 150,000 ounces a year.

A lot has happened in this corner of Lancaster County since Benjamin Haile discovered gold along Little Lyncches Creek in 1829, according to the 1972 book "Death of a Gold Mine" by Clyde C. Pittman. Mining has stopped and started here many times under many different owners.

I hope OceanaGold keeps digging and is successful here.

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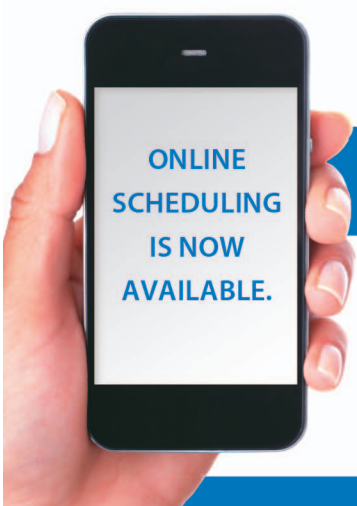
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