

Head to Adventure Camp for summer learning fun

BY MANDY CATOE
LANCASTER PROMISE
NEIGHBORHOOD

USC Lancaster is offering its annual Arts + Sciences Adventure Camp this summer to rising sixth- through ninth-graders.

Lancaster Promise Neighborhood (LPN) has partnered with the USCL camp and set up scholarships for students in the attendance zone.

LPN Director Sh'Kur Francis said he wants the Promise Neighborhood kids to know they belong in the challenging fields of math and science.

"We need more engaging and life-giving experiences for our children in the zone because while they are performing better in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) disciplines, they do not feel a sense of belonging in certain fields," Francis said.

"They need opportunities to envision their futures and engage meaningfully with STEM professionals who can serve as role models and mentors."

Camp director Dr. Dwayne Brown, USCL assistant professor of mathematics, is one of those role models.

"I enjoy showing the students the usefulness of mathematics," he said.



A past participant in the USCL Arts + Sciences Adventure Camp with a Texas Instruments calculator given to all campers by Lancaster Promise Neighborhood.

"The students will receive tools, such as compasses and protractors, as well as instruction on how to use them."

Students will also learn computer programming languages and create their own video games.

Last year, campers were given a Texas Instru-

ments calculator.

The six-week summer camp includes two three-week sessions. The first session, Applied Math, begins June 12 and the second session, Applied Science, begins July 10.

Sessions are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Each



day includes applied math or science, computer programming and physical exercise.

The cost for both sessions is \$200. The cost for one session is \$120. Registration fee includes camp activities, T-shirt, camp supplies and snacks. Registration and payment must be made online.

Francis said the camp experience goes beyond just giving the kids something to do during the summer.

"We want them to know that we recognize their brilliance, believe in them and are committed to their success," he said.

APPLIED MATH

The applied math session, starting June 12, will include instruction on Unity, a professional 3D game development software which will allow the students to create their own kart-racing game like Mario Kart and Crash

Team Racing. They will play their created games with other campers and with friends and family at home. At camp, they will participate in Esports League races against other schools and have a chance for their created game to be featured in Black Rocket master build of the game.

APPLIED SCIENCE

The Applied Science session, which begins July 10, will allow students to customize their Minecraft world by modifying the game with their own characters and tools. Students will learn scripting and logic statements to create new elements, and gaming mechanics to change the way they play the game. Students must have the Java version of Minecraft to take this class. Returning students can modify and build on their past creation.

Brown urges students

to sign up early for camp because it fills up fast.

Students in the Lancaster Promise Neighborhood attendance zone will be given a code to sign up for free.

Dr. Walter Collins, USCL dean, said the university is pleased to partner with Lancaster Promise Neighborhood to provide the Summer Arts and Sciences Camp again this year.

"Last year's camp offered rich and insightful activities for students to keep them engaged during the summer months," he said. "Being on a college campus is a big deal for them and they enjoyed the hands-on experiences, as well as the fun learning projects."

For more information, contact Brown at dwayneb@mailbox.sc.edu or 803-313-7037. Search for USCL Arts + Science Adventure Camp online to register.

Still time to see CPLC musical, 'Bye Bye Birdie'

BY JOYCE MAHAFFEY
CORRESPONDENT

You won't want to miss the Community Playhouse of Lancaster County (CPLC) musical, "Bye Bye Birdie" this weekend. The show is full of great costumes, rock 'n' roll and lively dance numbers.

Set in 1958, rock 'n' roll idol Conrad Birdie, played by Trevor May, has been drafted into the Army, much to the dismay of his many adoring teenage fans and his perpetually neurotic manager. With only one last hurrah before he goes, Birdie and his manager plan a "win-a-date" contest, before he chooses all-American girl Kim McAfee, played by Jessica Rubino, for a farewell kiss.

This particular play has a lot of family connections involved. Director Scott Albert's daughter, Lilliana, is in the

play, as well as husband and wife, Charlene and Keith Hopkins; mother and son, Mandy and Ethan Haynes; along with the Hansen family — mom Kate, dad Matt and daughter Lucy.

"We have always been a theater family, but it's really fun to see actual family members join us to perform together as well," said Catherine Wallace, the show's stage manager and CPLC president.

Scott Albert, who has been directing for 25-plus years with the Fort Mill Community Theater and the Rock Hill theater, has enjoyed working with the CPLC theater family.

"This is community theater at its finest, where the community in general, including cast, crew, board members, as well as community members pitched in to build, paint and assem-



ble sets," he said. "We faced some challenges with having to recast some roles due to scheduling conflicts, but we pulled it off."

The show also has a romantic focus on Albert Peterson, played by Myles Arnold, and Rose Alvarez, played by Ellie Dudeck, both of whom are performing with CPLC for the first time.

"This gave me the opportunity to be goofy and adventurous. Albert is a fun role to play," said Arnold, who is from Charlotte, N.C. He said



Joyce Mahaffey

Myles Arnold, as Albert, and Ellie Dudeck, as Rose, perform in a scene from the musical, "Bye Bye Birdie," on stage at USCL's Bundy's Auditorium this weekend.

the camaraderie of his castmates made it worth the long drive.

"(Rose) is such a ver-

satile character who goes through some life changes that everyone can relate to in the play,"

said Dudeck, who is from the Wesley Chapel area of Matthews.

The cast also includes Mary McInvaile Adamson, Ellie Collins, Salem Harm, Crys Henderson, Lily Lindsley, Savannah McKerracher, Colin McMahon, Maya Miller, Pierre Rougeux, Catie Rowell, Will Stokes, Enoch Tonkin and Kenny Weed.

Although the show started Wednesday, May 3, there is still time to enjoy the show this weekend. Remaining performances are 3 p.m. Saturday, May 6, and Sunday, May 7, as well as 7:30 p.m. Saturday at USC Lancaster's Bundy Auditorium, 476 Hubbard Drive, Lancaster.

Tickets are \$6 for children under 5, \$11 for students and senior citizens, and \$16 for adults, available at lancaster-playhouse.com or at the door.

COMING EVENTS

Chinese auction: 1 p.m. May 6 at Gold Hill AME Zion Church parking lot, 9239 Van Wyck Road, Van Wyck. Drop time 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Rain date May 20. For details, call 803-287-3923.

'Bye Bye Birdie': 7:30 p.m. May 3-7 and 3 p.m. May 6-7 at USC Lancaster's Bundy Auditorium, 476 Hubbard Drive, Lancaster. Presented by the Community Playhouse of Lancaster County, the play focuses on an Elvis-like singer who gets drafted into the Army and the "win-a-date" contest before he leaves. Tickets range from \$6 to \$16, available at lancasterplayhouse.com or at the door.

Choir event: 2:30 p.m. May 7 at First United Methodist Church, 200

W. Gay St., Lancaster. The choirs of First, St. Luke and Tabernacle United Methodist churches will share their talents at this community event honoring the leadership of church musicians. "A Voice of Peace" by Dr. Anthony Bernaducci, based on the prayer of St. Francis and in memory of Mary Westmoreland, will be highlighted.

OneBlood drives:
• May 7, 1-6 p.m., RedStone 14, 9650 RedStone Drive, Indian Land
• May 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Lancaster County Administration Building, 101 N. Main St., Lancaster
• May 14, noon-6 p.m., Lore Brewing Co., 1218 Rosemont Drive, Indian Land
• May 16, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., CrossRidge Center/INSP,

2001 Parkway Drive, Indian Land
To make an appointment, visit www.oneblood.org or call 888-9-DONATE (936-6283).

American Red Cross blood drives:
• May 12, 2-6:30 p.m., Lancaster County Natural Gas, 1010 Kershaw-Camden Highway, Lancaster
• May 13, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Islamic Center of South Charlotte, 1048 Gant Road, Indian Land
• May 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Lowe's, 181 Fort Mill Highway, Indian Land
To make an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.
Cultivating Community: The Lancaster County Sheriff's Office and Nutramax Laboratories

will host a free community engagement event 6-7 p.m. May 11 at Lancaster County Library, 313 S. White St., Lancaster. Come speak with law enforcement officers and local leaders in an open setting about your vision and needs in the community.

Spring-a-thon: Family-friendly celebration 6-9 p.m. May 12 and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 13 on Hampton Street in Kershaw. The Mighty Kicks will play all kinds of music, and there will be carnival rides and inflatables, lots of vendors and the Golden Cruisers car show.

Miles for Music Fun Run and 5K: 8 a.m. May 13 at the Springdale Recreation Complex track, 260 S. Plantation Road, Lancaster. Walk or run, and bring the

stroller and kids, too. Hosted by Lancaster County Parks and Recreation. Registration fee is \$15. Register at <https://bit.ly/milesformoms>.

Ag+Art Tour: The S.C. Ag+Art Tour is May 13-14 in Lancaster County. Tours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Local sites are Benford Brewing Co., Elliott's Nursery, Hall Family Farm, Historic Craig Farm, Laurel Haven Estate, Maple Leaf Stables, Rich Hill Farms and The Ivy Place. For details, visit agandarttour.com or contact Amber Donnelley at yardgraph@gmail.com.

Stamp Out Hunger: Residents may place unexpired nonperishable food items in a bag or box at their mailbox for letter carriers to pick up May 13. Local donations will be used

to restock food pantries at HOPE in Lancaster and KARE in Kershaw. For details or to volunteer, call United Way of Lancaster County at 803-283-8923.

Lancaster's Got Talent: 7 p.m. May 18 at USCL's Bundy Auditorium. The competition will include singing, music, dancing and a few surprises presented by Lancaster's most talented individuals. First- and second-place winners in each category will receive cash awards. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors, available at the Lancaster County Chamber of Commerce, 453 Colonial Ave., Lancaster, and at the door. Proceeds benefit the local Good Samaritan Scholarship Foundation.