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Six Mile preps for centennial bash

BY GREG OLIVER
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SIX MILE — Six Mile has a unique history, dating back to the Cherokee Indians and highs that include a rich public school tradition to lows highlighted by a 1929 tornado that claimed the lives of nine residents — including children.

In celebration of its 100 years, town officials and community members are working together to prepare a centennial celebration for the town. Mayor John Wade said a 17-member committee formed a year ago has been collecting data, old photographs and news articles from 1910 to the present to display.

"We tried to get some things from the early 1900s that depict a lot of the history of the Six Mile community," Wade said. "Assistance has also been enlisted from Clemson University, and they had a couple of graduate students that assisted us in creating 20 panels to be placed on the wall of our community room."

According to Wade, the panels are 5 feet by 3 ½ feet and each will contain 10-20 photos and articles typically depicting a 10-year period.

"Whatever we had prior to 1910, we will have one panel with information and other panels will primarily consist of periods from 1910-20, 1920-30, 1930-40 as well as 'The War Years' and up to the present," he said. "The unique part of these panels is that they are being put together with hard laminate and will be placed on the walls to permanently stay."

Wade said four of the town's most significant events in its century of existence were the 1929 tornado that killed nine residents on Main Street and the subsequent funeral; three Medal of Honor winners in Six Mile and the fact that of the four representing Pickens County overall, three called the town home (all four winners are highlighted in the display); the transition from Six Mile Baptist Academy that began in the 1920s to small schools to the consolidation of schools into Daniel High School in 1955; and the formation of the Six Mile Fire Department in 1974.



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Six Mile Centennial Commitee Chairman Ken Spears, right, and commitee member Carol Coke look through proofs of the exhibit. The celebration will begin Dec. 10 with an invitation-only banquet for former mayors and council members. The public will have an opportunity to view the historic panels from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the following day.

"The things that have happened the last 100 years in Six Mile need to be preserved and people need to see the steps that were taken to get to where we are now," Wade said.

While the Six Mile mayor said the entire centennial committee has worked very hard, he named three in particular who stood out above the rest — Kenneth Spears spent many months constructing the panels; Dora Jane Duncan, a sponsor of the town's Christmas Parade for 40 years; and Lynne Griffin, a retired Six Mile Elementary teacher.

A two-day centennial celebration will kick off at 6 p.m. Dec. 10 with an invitation-only banquet in the Six Mile Elementary cafeteria. The banquet will honor former mayors and council members of the town. U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham will be the featured speaker.

The unveiling of the town's community room, complete with historic panels, will take place for dignitaries only at the Dec. 10 event. However, Wade said the public would have an opportunity to view the panels from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the following day as well as during normal town hall hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays thereafter.

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