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The Greenville News

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SC observes Confederate Memorial Day

State among handful in south to recognize day

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Those driving into South Carolina are met with quite the sight on Interstate 85.

Flying atop a 120-foot flagpole is a Confederate Flag. It is estimated that 80,400 travelers see it every day.

The 30-by-50-foot flag on the Teaberry Road property has overlooked I-85 and Highway 221 since Oct. 22, 2022. In

its wake, it has sparked much heated debate among residents, with property owners and Spartanburg County battling whether it has the right to remain standing out in the courts.

South Carolina is one of several states in the south to recognize Confederate Memorial Day as a “holiday.” This year, the holiday will take place on Friday, May 10.

Those unfamiliar with the holiday will want to learn more about its contro-

versy, history, and how it is observed.

What other states observe Confederate Memorial Day?

Confederate Memorial Day is also observed in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas, according to timeanddate. In North Carolina and South Carolina, the holiday falls on May 10. In Texas, the holiday is known as Confederate Heroes’ Day and is held on Jan. 19. Workers receive one day off if the holiday coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Why is the day observed?

The holiday is used to remember those who died fighting for the Confederate States during the Civil War and was first observed in a number of areas just after 1866.

Arkansas and Texas have joint celebrations of the birthdays of General Robert E. Lee, commander of a Confederate army, and Martin Luther King Jr., an African American civil rights leader. The joint celebration is held on the third

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People enjoy the arts, crafts, shows and more at Artisphere in Greenville in 2019. JON STEGENGA/GREENVILLE NEWS FILE

Artisphere 2024:

Where to park, road closings and bike storage

A.J. Jackson

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Artisphere 2024, presented by TD Bank, is expected to draw nearly 93,000 visitors to the downtown area this upcoming Mother’s Day weekend, from May 10 to 12.

The free three-day fine arts festival will span from Court Street and Main Street to Wardlaw and Main Street from noon on Friday, May 10, through 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 12. This event will allow the public to meet and discuss creative works alongside world-class visiting and local artists.

While carpooling and ridesharing services might be the easiest way to travel to Artisphere, festival attendees have many other travel and parking options.

Here are some of the best places to park and things to consider for travel to Artisphere 2024:

Road closures during Artisphere 2024

On Thursday, May 9, road closures near the downtown area will start in preparation for Ar-

tisphere. According to the city of Greenville, the current listed road closures for the weekend are:

- May 9 to 13, between 9 a.m. to midnight, Main Street from Court Street to Wardlaw Street; Broad Street from Laurens Street to Fall Street.

- May 11 to 13, between 7 p.m. and midnight, River/Augusta Street from Boggs Street to University Street.

Parking garages near downtown for Artisphere 2024

According to the city of Greenville helpdesk, all parking garages will be open and available to enter during Artisphere. The event rate is \$5 for all-day access. If parking structure users leave, they must pay again upon re-entry.

There are 10 parking garages and two lots in the downtown vicinity. The online link to view parking openings can be found on the city of Greenville’s website.

Riverplace Parking Garage will prioritize all monthly parking pass holders over festival parking.

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Aces star A’ja Wilson inspires, connects with young fans

Lulu Kesin

Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA — Zaria Corley has always loved South Carolina women’s basketball.

The 10-year-old has a simple routine. She watches the games and goes outside, practicing what she saw. Even before Zaria’s famous rap about Aliyah Boston, she modeled her game after A’ja Wilson. Zaria loves Wilson’s versatility, shooting a silky jumper or an making an up-and-under.

She’s fun to watch.

“Being a young girl, I’ve always wanted to be like A’ja Wilson, she inspired me to play basketball,” Zaria, who is from Batesburg-Leesville, told the Greenville News.

“Its exciting watching her play ... she’s one of my idols.”

Wilson, born and raised in Columbia, cemented legendary status at South Carolina. Consensus National Player of the Year, three time SEC Player of the Year, tournament MVP for 2017 NCAA championship, to name a few of Wilson’s accolades.

Her six seasons in the WNBA with the Las Vegas Aces has introduced Wilson to a new group of fans.

Arionna Marsay, 13, from Missouri,

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Arionna Marsay, 13, poses with Las Vegas Aces star and former USC standout A’ja Wilson.

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Artisphere

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Street parking near Artisphere 2024 grounds

Street parking can be hit or miss near the downtown areas during the festival season; however, there are a few locations near the festival grounds that are often available.

For the best parking options near downtown, park on the east end of Falls Street (next to Main) and use Broad Street, East McBee Avenue, East Washington Street, or East North Street.

On the northwest side of Artisphere grounds, South Academy Street and Falls Park Drive (near River Street) have a few parking spaces that are often available for a quick walk to the festival.

On the West End (near Fluor Field), park on South Main Street, anywhere close to Pendleton Street, or look for side roads like Rhett Street, Watson Avenue, McCall Street, and Grace Street to find parking.

Bike services are available for Artisphere 2024

Bike Walk Greenville will provide a free bike valet service under the Main Street Bridge along the Swamp Rabbit Trail.

The bike valet service will be available on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., as bikes will be stored in a secure location without parking or traffic issues.

For more information, visit bike-walkgreenville.org.



Artisphere is expected to draw nearly 93,000 visitors to downtown Greenville this weekend. CINDY HOSEA/GREENVILLE NEWS FILE

Will any bus services through Greenlink change during Artisphere?

Greenlink Transit cannot service stop 1003 on East McBee Avenue and

Falls Street (Route 501 and 510). That specific route will be detoured from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

A.J. Jackson covers the food & dining scene, along with arts, entertainment and downtown culture for *The Green-*

ville News. Contact him by email at ajackson@gannett.com, and follow him on X (formerly Twitter) @ajhappened. This coverage is only possible with support from our readers. Sign up today for a digital subscription.

Wilson

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has gone to Aces games with her grandma, and was immediately inspired by Wilson.

"She gives me confidence to control my own destiny and to never change for anyone, to stay true to who I am," Arionna said.

In February, Wilson released her first book "Dear Black Girls" and Marsay traveled to South Carolina for Wilson's book tour. She met Wilson again at the "Unapologetic Girls Summit" in March and Wilson signed her shoe.

However, before Wilson's WNBA championships, two league MVP awards, five All-Star appearances and her book, something else attracted her to a new set of fans, two weeks before the draft.

"That was the day I found out that I had something called dyslexia," Wilson wrote in *Players Tribune* on March 24, 2018.

How A'ja Wilson inspires a new group of fans

Wilson's honesty deepened her relatability off the court. When Wilson plays Saturday in Columbia for a pre-season game with the Aces against Puerto Rico national team, fans will be watching for a whole new reason.

"I think its inspiring to see someone who has dyslexia be really successful with what they are doing," said Jordan, a fourth-grade student with dyslexia at the Swift School, in Roswell, Georgia. The *Greenville News* agreed not to use Jordan's last name for this story.

"It feels good knowing that you can look and see that there is someone else who has gone through the same challenges as you and is very successful, to be able to follow in their footsteps or do something similar it (gives) me a lot of confidence," Jordan added.

The Swift School was founded in 1998, with a goal to build a school to help students with dyslexia and language learning differences.

In October, to celebrate National

Dyslexia Awareness Month, students arrived dressed as different celebrities with dyslexia. One student went as Spider-Man star actor Tom Holland, another as Will Smith, one as Tom Cruise. Then, there was Jordan, smiling from ear to ear, wearing a shirt that read "2022 WNBA champions Las Vegas Aces" and a name tag that read "A'ja Wilson."

"I was really proud to be inspired by (Wilson) and I wanted to show that," Jordan said.

Jordan's love for Wilson started before she knew how similar the two were. Jordan joined her grandmother and mother on the couch for an Aces game, and wondered who her family's favorite player was. When they answered "A'ja Wilson," it was the first time Jordan heard her name.

Now, even though she doesn't play basketball yet, Jordan hopes one day she can inspire others with dyslexia the same way Wilson has done for her.

"Sometimes I wouldn't want to tell people I have dyslexia but now I feel really confident to tell people I have dyslexia," Jordan said of Wilson's impact. "I would love to talk to someone and tell them its ok to have dyslexia."

The A'ja Wilson Foundation started in 2019 with Wilson and her parents, with a simple mission: "Change the culture by overcoming the stigma of dyslexia and putting an end to bullying." A secret that Wilson said she expected to keep her whole life, is the root of her advocacy. Since authoring the *Players Tribune* piece, Wilson's foundation has partnered with numerous schools and organizations.

For Alison Katz, a teacher finishing up her 13th year at Swift, Wilson was introduced to her through Jordan. In her extensive career teaching students with dyslexia, she finds there is a difference when an athlete comes forward to speak about their difficulties.

"Some students have challenges in the classroom but are so gifted outside of the classroom so to be able to see them shine through (various sports), its really neat for them to be able to look up to these very talented athletes and say 'hey that could be me one day,'" Katz said.

Confederate

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Monday in January. In Texas, the holiday is known as Confederate Heroes' Day and is held on Jan. 19.

Workers receive one day off if the holiday coincides with Martin Luther King Jr. Day, according to timeanddate.com.

May 10 is the anniversary of Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson's death and the capture of Jefferson Davis in 1865. The day is recognized by North Carolina and South Carolina.

The Sons of Confederate Veterans

organization in Pennsylvania commemorates those who died fighting for the Confederates. In Virginia, the lives of Confederate soldiers are honored on Memorial Day.

How is the day observed?

The controversial holiday is observed in the following ways:

- Civil War battle re-enactments in historical costume
- Church services
- Displays of Civil War relics
- Placing of flags and wreaths on Confederate soldier graves and memorials

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