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The Post and Courier

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Thursday, March 31, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Wilson rips Pascoe, calls him 'tainted'

AG defends firing of special prosecutor in Statehouse corruption investigation

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
croltan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA—In the latest twist of an expanding legal battle, S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson

defended his dismissal of special prosecutor David Pascoe, accusing Pascoe of becoming "tainted" in his zeal to take a Statehouse corruption case to a grand jury on his own.

Palmetto Politics
DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW

During a rare 30-minute news conference Wednesday in the state grand jury room, Wilson said it was necessary to speak

out on behalf of his staff's honor. He countered allegations that his office was trying to block the corruption probe of potential lawmaker misdoings, which has been in Pascoe's hands for months.

Wilson called Pascoe the problem in the investigation, repeatedly ripping the 1st Circuit solicitor's temperament, performance,

legal knowledge and communication skills. He described the Dorchester County prosecutor as "tainted" numerous times. Wilson added that multiple leaks to the media of what's happening in the investigation could lead to the case being thrown out of court.

Please see **WILSON**, Page A7



Wilson

Go big this weekend

Join hordes of runners, hunt for treasures, feast on crawfish or catch some tennis

BY STEPHANIE HARVIN
sharvin@postandcourier.com

It's "The Big Weekend": Cooper River Bridge Run, Volvo Car Open, Flower Town Festival, Cajun Festival.

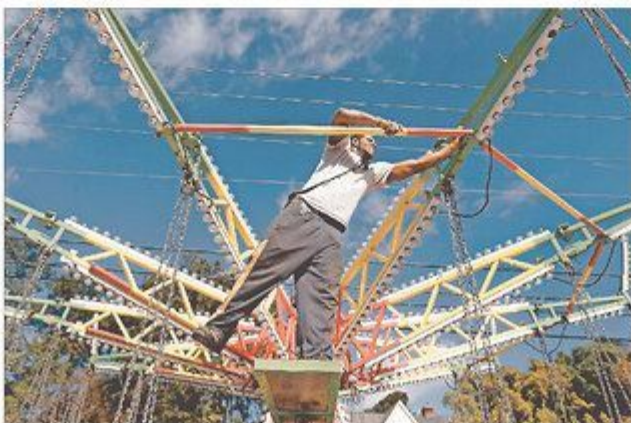
If you can walk, run, doodle or serve, there's something for you to do or watch across the Lowcountry this weekend.

The restaurants will be full, so grab a seat early or late. The restaurants are likely to be portable. You might need an umbrella. And you will definitely need your running/strolling shoes.

We bring you all the details you need to know about the events in Charleston Scene, but in celebration of all that togetherness, we've assembled some fun facts to wow your friends with over that apes event beer.

Inside

More coverage plus a special Bridge Run section. In **Charleston Scene**



PAUL ZOLLER/SMITH

David Martin of Brinkley Entertainment puts together Kick Booty, one of many rides being set up before the start of the Summerville Flower Town Festival opening Friday.



1

The number of tons of crawfish that will be served on Sunday at the Cajun Festival at James Island County Park.



100%

The chance of rain predicted for Friday, but that's never stopped Flower Town, or anything else. There are rain or shine events. Ditto for Saturday morning.

21

The number of countries represented by players in the Volvo Car Open qualifying bracket Saturday and Sunday on Daniel Island.



0

The number of satellite parking lots or parking shuttles at Flower Town this year. (Prepare to walk.)

1

The Volvo Car Open is the only professional tennis tournament in the world played on a green clay surface.

30

The average number of crawfish consumed in 30 seconds in the crawfish-eating contest.



60,000+

The number of athletic shoes crossing the bridge — give or take a few flip-flops and spectators.

450

The number of porta-potties at the bridge run.

18

The number of porta-potties at the Cajun Festival.

93

The age of the 2015 bridge run's oldest participant — Hanahan's Leroy Miller.



40-50 pounds

The amount of pasta that Joe Pasta in downtown Charleston plans to sell over the course of the weekend. (Runners stoke up on it.)



33,000

The number of azalea plants in Azalea Park in Summerville.

Over 1,250,000

The number of hits Zeddie Little, dubbed the "Freakishly Photogenic Guy," got on social media after a photo on Flickr from the 2012 bridge run went viral.



Driver killed in N. Chas. gunbattle

Car crashes through wall of barbershop in 10th 2016 homicide

BY DAVE MUNDAY
and CHRISTINA ELMORE
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A moving gunbattle early Wednesday marked the fourth fatal shooting in North Charleston in the past two weeks and 10th of the year, putting the city on pace to more than double last year's homicide total.

A 27-year-old driver was shot to death in the latest incident, crashing his SUV through the side of a building that's been a community icon for decades.

Police were working an unrelated call when they heard gunshots coming from the Rouseffdale community, according to an incident report. The shots were initially reported just after 2 a.m. on Taylor Street near Elder Avenue, police spokesman Spencer Pryor said. The area is off Rivers Avenue just north of Interstate 526.

Please see **HOMICIDE**, Page A6

Death penalty challenge has racial focus

Lawyers to argue Wilson eliminated black jurors

BY ANDREW KNAPP
and MAYA T. PRAIBU
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mpraub@postandcourier.com

Hoping to stop the execution of a man who slashed, sodomized and strangled a James Island resident a decade ago, defense attorneys will argue that 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson eliminated potential jurors from the trial and from other cases she has prosecuted because they were black.

Greenwood lawyer Charles Grose said he will unveil research showing a pattern of such conduct during Wilson's career when he requests a new trial for William O. Dickerson Jr., a black man convicted of murder, kidnapping and sexual assault.



Dickerson

Please see **CHALLENGE**, Page A6

POLL: What are you planning to do this weekend? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Inside

STATE

Obama commutes sentences of 3 S.C. drug offenders. **A7**

BUSINESS

J. Crew opens new concept store in Mount Pleasant next week. **B1**

SPORTS

Pharaoh Cooper uses USC pro day to erase "bad mark" from NFL combine. **C1**

STATE

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott picks up 4 long-shot challengers in the final week of filing. **A5**



Chance of storms. High 79, Low 67. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

Bridge...\$9 Crosswords...\$8.05 Movies...\$14
Business...\$1 Dear Abby...\$7 Obituaries...\$4
Classifieds...\$1 Editorials...\$10 Sports...\$1
Comics...\$8-9 Local...\$2 Television...\$7

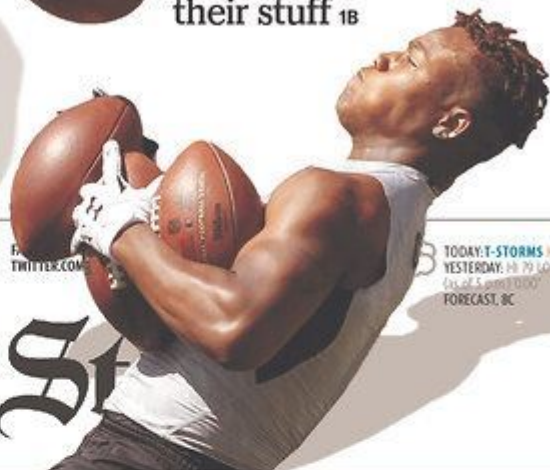
Charleston Deals today

Coffin Island 5k
Discounted tickets for Folly Beach's Sea & Sand Coffin 5k Race. See **A2**

2016 ELECTIONS
Tim Scott
 poised for
 re-election
 to Senate 3A



USC PRO DAY
Gerald Dixon Jr., Pharoh
 Cooper and others show
 their stuff 1B



THURSDAY MARCH 31 2016

\$1.00

VOL. 126TH, No. 43
 STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COM

TWITTER.COM

TODAY: T-STORMS HI 82 LO 65
 YESTERDAY: HI 79 LO 46 PRECIP.
 (as of 5:00 PM) FORECAST, 9C

The State

SC ATTORNEY GENERAL VS. SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

Wilson denounces Pascoe as probe conflict escalates

Attorney General Wilson defends his position

Pascoe asserts in court records that Wilson can't fire him, asks SC Supreme Court for quick hearing

Dan Johnson, Wilson's first choice to replace Pascoe, rejects Wilson's offer - for time being

BY JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

A political firestorm that started with Monday's disclosure that special prosecutor David Pascoe has accused Attorney General

Alan Wilson of impeding an investigation into public corruption in the General Assembly escalated Wednesday with Wilson calling a news conference to denounce Pascoe.

Wilson fired Pascoe on Tuesday, but Pascoe has claimed in



Wilson



Pascoe

ONLINE

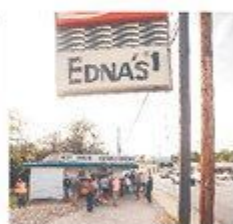
AT THESTATE.COM

Watch the video: AG Alan Wilson takes tough questions from reporters. Plus, read the letter Solicitor Dan Johnson sent to Wilson.

court documents that Wilson lacks the authority to fire him. In a half-hour afternoon news conference, Wilson took aim at two filings Pascoe has made in the S.C. Supreme Court, asserting to reporters that Pascoe is "tainted" and that his allega-

tions that Wilson is impeding a public corruption investigation are grossly irresponsible. "They're filled with half-truths, misinformation and at least one outright lie. A lie," an

SEE POLITICAL FIRESTORM, 7A



BUSINESS

EDNA'S TO CLOSE AFTER THURSDAY

Edna's restaurant will close its serving windows for the last time Thursday, ending a 57-year tradition on Columbia's River Drive, 6B



PALMETTO

ROBERT ARIAL'S VIEW

A selection of our favorite Robert Aerial cartoons from the month of March, 1C



Meredith Hope shops at Pink Sorbet in Columbia.

TRACY GLANTZ tglantz@thestate.com

CAROLINA CUP

Fashion will be focus of Saturday's event



Keys to the Cup



LOCAL

CORMORANT PARDONS

Court rules against pro-



USC FOOTBALL, 1C SCOUTS TEST GAMECOCKS



CITY PEOPLE, 1D Local man's film draws praise

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THURSDAY,
MARCH 31, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



USA TODAY

FDA EXPANDS ACCESS TO ABORTION PILL IN STATES SEEKING TO LIMIT ITS USE PAGE 1B

Mental illness beset man shot by cops

ANNA LEE
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On his good days, Bobby Garrison was warm and loving and kind.

But on days he didn't take his medication or drank too much, something inside of him seemed to snap, and he was consumed by feelings he couldn't control.

Authorities said Garrison, 51, was fa-

tally shot by sheriff's deputies Tuesday night as he stood on his deck with a rifle and screamed for them to kill him.

Greenville County Coroner Parks Evans said Robert Morgan Garrison Jr. was shot in the head at 9:34 p.m. and died at his home on West Gantt Circle.

Two hours earlier, deputies were called to a reported disturbance and found Garrison acting erratically in the

front yard, said Greenville County Sheriff's Maj. Brad Stepp.

At one point, Stepp said he went into his house and got a rifle.

"The suspect came out, talking to the deputies, screaming at the deputies, hollering, 'kill me, kill me, kill me,'" Sheriff Steve Loftis said at a news conference late Tuesday night.

Garrison refused to drop the gun de-

spite repeated instructions from deputies, Loftis said, and deputies fired when he pointed the rifle at them.

Deputies used the "necessary force to eliminate the threat," Loftis said.

Outside Garrison's house Wednesday, neighbors described Garrison as thoughtful and generous but said he had

See GARRISON, Page 4A



Lockheed Martin hopes to win bid to build jet

RUDOLPH BELL
RBELL@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Greenville would become the first location in South Carolina to produce a new military aircraft in its entirety if Lockheed Martin Corp. wins a bid to supply a jet to the U.S. Air Force for the purpose of training fighter pilots.

South Carolina is already home to the manufacture of civilian aircraft, the most notable example being The Boeing Co., which makes its 787 Dreamliner passenger jet in North Charleston.

There's also civilian aircraft production on a much smaller scale in Walhalla, where a business called Just Aircraft makes kit planes for taking off and landing on short, rugged runways in bush country.

South Carolina is also home to the manufacture of parts for military air-



(MEDIHEILBRUNNSTAFF (TOP) AND SUPPLIED BY LOCKHEED MARTIN (ABOVE)

TOP: Crews work on a C-5 at Lockheed Martin in Greenville on Wednesday. ABOVE: The T-50A is the version of the T-50 that Lockheed Martin hopes to build for the U.S. Air Force to use as a training jet.

Family: 'Zach did not die in vain'

RON BARNETT
RBARNETT@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Zachary Hammond's parents said Wednesday that the \$2.15 million settlement with the city of Seneca over their son's death at the hands of a Seneca police officer is just one part of their battle to keep such killing from happening again.

Angie Hammond, mother of the 19-year-old who was shot during an attempted drug bust in a parking lot last July, said she's hopeful that his death will push lawmakers to reform laws related to the release of police videos, and prompt other changes in police procedures to prevent needless police shootings.

"It will not bring Zach back, but it will bring about change," she said. "Zach did not die in vain."

The turning point in the family's legal battle in their wrongful death lawsuit against the city, its police chief and the officer who shot their son came with a judge's order that the city must turn over all its email exchanges with the public relations firm it hired to handle the media, the family's attorney said.

That, and the fact that a federal investigation into the shooting put Lt. Mark Tiller, who shot Hammond, in jeopardy in giving a deposition in the civil case, attorney Eric Bland said.

See HAMMONDS, Page 6A



LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Angie and Paul Hammond hold a press conference at Main St. Plaza to talk about their settlement with the city of Seneca.

INSIDE

Abby4D City People.....1D Lotteries.....2A Television.....4D
Area news.....3A Classifieds.....5C Obituaries.....8A U.S./World.....1B

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LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

Love Patsy Cline?
Two area shows
will give you
sweet dreams 3C



LOCAL

A touch of 16th
century Spain is
on its way to
Beaufort 3A



THURSDAY MARCH 31 2016

75¢

VOLUME 46, No. 91
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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON



Partly cloudy
74°/66° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

STATE, LOCAL ELECTIONS

Dozens of candidates toss their hats in ring

Filing deadline was noon
Wednesday

Primary vote is scheduled for
June 14; if necessary, runoffs
will be June 28

General election is Nov. 8

BY LUCAS HIGH
lhigh@islandpacket.com

More than three dozen candidates have filed to run for a host of state and local offices.

The deadline to enter the 18 races to be decided in November was at noon on Wednesday.

The following candidates have filed, according to information from the S.C. Election Commission:

U.S. SENATE

Tim Scott (Incumbent)
Party: Republican
Residence: Hanahan
Occupation: U.S. Senator
Elected/appointed office experience: Elected to Senate in 2013

Thomas Dixon
Party: Democrat
Residence: North Charleston
Occupation: Pastor
Elected/appointed office experience: Not available

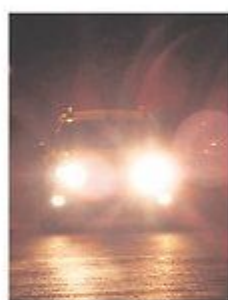
perience: Not available

Bill Bledsoe
Party: Libertarian
Residence: Spartanburg
Occupation: Veterinarian
Elected/appointed office experience: None

Jim Hinkle
Party: American
Residence: Bluffton
Occupation: Retired
Elected/appointed office experience: None

"Rebel" Michael Scarborough
Party: American
Residence: Columbia
Occupation: Not available
Elected/appointed office experience: Not available

SEE CANDIDATES, 7A



NATION

DRIVERS LEFT IN THE DARK

The headlights on many midsize cars don't do an adequate job of helping drivers see down dark roads, a study says. 5A

LOCAL

THREAT KEEPS STUDENTS HOME

Some Hilton Head High parents kept their kids at home Tuesday in the wake of a threat found on a bathroom wall. 3A



THE LONG READ

HOW SECURE IS YOUR IPHONE?

The FBI's announcement that it has successfully hacked a terrorist's iPhone catches Apple by surprise. 1C



Hilton Head resident and Uber driver Eric Lawson is pictured with his cherished Jaguar XJ8 Vanden Plas that belonged to his late father.

Storied Jaguar leads police to stolen guitar

BY LIZ FARRELL

In 2011, one year after his wife of nearly 50 years died and a year before his own death, Edward Lawson III of Hilton Head Island decided to go on a road trip.

First, he bought a 2008 silver Jaguar XJ8 Vanden Plas, a classic

to go to South Dakota. Guess how fast I'm driving?"

"How fast?"

"110 miles per hour."

"Dad, You're 82. And you're

talking on a phone while you're driving! You shouldn't be going 110," Eric told him.

ability that led to the road trip in the first place, he had two heart attacks in two months.

Both times he drove himself to the hospital in that Jaguar.

He walked in through those emergency room doors on his own, and when he was safely within reach of the surgeons who would save his life, only then did he collapse.

"That was the tough generation," his son said Wednesday.

"Never," Eric Lawson said,

"would (my father) have

thought any kind of man would

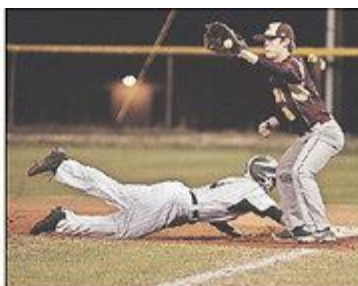
steal a guitar in his car."





SC COMICON RETURNS THIS WEEKEND

ESCAPE, D1



CHESNEE, WOODRUFF BATTLE

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, March 31, 2016



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TODAY **FRI** **SAT**



72°/62° 75°/54° 69°/44°

Complete forecast, B6

CAMPAIGN 2016

GOP remains silent on Trump

By Steve Peoples
and Scott Bauer
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Frustrated Republicans grappled privately with new fears about Donald Trump's impact on their party Wednesday, as the billionaire businessman's rivals targeted his punitive plan for fighting abortion and extraordinary defense of his campaign manager who police say assaulted a female reporter.

Concern rippled through Republican circles nationwide, yet few dared criticize the GOP front-runner directly when pressed. Their silence

underscored the deep uncertainty plaguing the party — particularly its most prominent women — who are growing increasingly concerned that a Trump presidential nomination could tarnish the party brand for a generation of women and young people.

"A nominee who cannot speak to women cannot win," said New Hampshire party chairwoman Jennifer Horn, though declining to rebuke Trump by name.

Weighing in on abortion, a subject that remains highly controversial decades after the



Donald Trump's campaign manager Corey Lewandowski listens at left as Trump speaks March 15 in Palm Beach, Fla. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

SEE TRUMP, A7

FIGHTING POVERTY

Agencies leading families toward self-sufficiency



Debra Robinson, from left, Gloria Close and Emily Miller learn about their roles as the "Perez" family during a poverty simulation facilitated by United Way of the Piedmont Wednesday. The three were portraying siblings who were forced to fend for themselves after their father was incarcerated. ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHU.COM

By Alyssa Mulliger
alyssa.mulliger@shu.com

Several Upstate agencies have come together in an effort to get 2,000 families on the path to self-sufficiency in 2,000 days.

United Way of the Piedmont and

People and children living below poverty*

Data shows the percentage of residents and children living below poverty in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties has been higher than the national average, and in some cases

Children living below poverty



AFTER POLICE SHOOTING

Family reaches \$2.15M settlement

By Meg Kinnard
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The family of a 19-year-old man who was fatally shot by a South Carolina police officer last year has settled its wrongful death lawsuit against the city of Seneca for \$2.15 million.

The settlement, nearly 10 times higher than a figure approved last week by city leaders, comes as a federal investigation continues into the officer's actions. State prosecutors have said they won't pursue charges of their own.

At a news conference Wednesday, the parents of Zachary Hammond said no amount of money will bring back their son but that the settlement will help them move on, particularly when it comes to refocusing attention on their other teenage son.

"No parent should ever have to investigate their child's death," said Angie Hammond, Zachary's mother. "Our grief

NEWS DIGEST

AG defends firing of special prosecutor

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's top lawyer on Wednesday defended his decision to fire a special prosecutor he had appointed to investigate corruption within South Carolina's Legislature, saying he didn't feel a good job was being done with the case and that the man chosen hadn't even been among his top five candidates for the job to begin with.

Attorney General Alan Wilson called a news conference this week after days of back and forth over Solicitor David Pascoe, whom Wilson designated two years ago to handle the prosecution against former House Speaker Bobby Harrell. Harrell ultimately pleaded guilty to six misdemeanor campaign-spending violations and resigned. No other lawmakers have been charged, but the probe is ongoing.

On Monday, Chief Deputy Attorney General John McIntosh released a letter announcing that Pascoe had been fired and that officials were "deeply troubled" the prosecutor had tried to open a state grand jury probe into a redacted portion of a state police report without proper authority. Pascoe responded in a letter of his own, saying he wouldn't step down without a court's intervention. Wilson on Tuesday picked a different prosecutor, but Dan Johnson said he wouldn't take the job without a ruling from the state Supreme Court.

—The Associated Press

UPSTATE

Skull found

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is investigating after human remains were found under a bridge on Double Branch Road in Cowpens Wednesday afternoon. C1

Election filings

The field has been set for



Morning News

THURSDAY MARCH 31, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

A p.m. shower or thunderstorm.
High 80, low 63.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Florence County FMU alumni director enters race for treasurer

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Julian Young, director of alumni affairs at Francis Marion University, announced Wednesday that he's entered the race to become the treasurer of Florence County.



Young

He filed on Wednesday morning and said his goal in running is to strengthen "three C's" in the treasurer's department: communication, collaboration and community.

He said his experience with alumni affairs and annual giving at Francis Marion has allowed him to build professional relationships and hone accounting skills vital for a treasurer's job.

See **YOUNG**, Page 3A

Filing period ends for 2016 elections

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The filing period for candidates running for public office this year ended at noon Wednesday. Dozens of state and local seats are up for election this year, several of which will go uncontested.

David Alford, director of the Florence County Voter Registration and Election Commission, said more candidates filed this year than in general election years past. He also said there were several seats that got more attention this cycle.

"It's been awhile since we've had a contest for Florence County treasurer. We've got multiple contests

See **FILING**, Page 3A

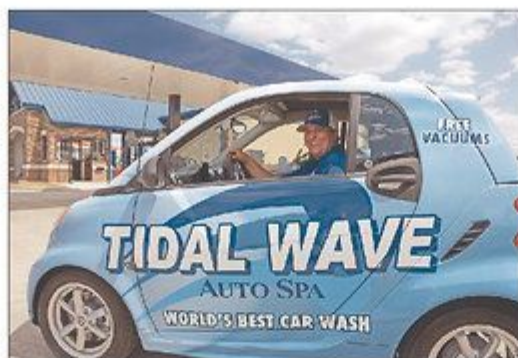
Shiny ride



Jonathan Parker watches a line of cars queued up Wednesday afternoon at Tidal Wave Auto Spa at the corner of South Irby Street and Second Loop Road. The business opened in late January and stays busy seven days a week.

Tidal Wave Auto Spa offers options for clean cars

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com



Coty Stevens, the owner/operator of Tidal Wave Auto Spa at the corner of South Irby Street and Second Loop Road, just picked up a company Smart car and loves her job.

FLORENCE — While earning a degree in business administration from the University of North Georgia, Coty Stevens needed a part-time job, so she started working as an attendant at Tidal Wave Auto Spa.

Eight years later, Stevens is the owner/operator of the Tidal Wave Auto Spa at the corner of South Irby Street and Second Loop Road that opened in late January.

"I started at the bottom and worked my way up,"

WANT TO GO?

Coty Stevens is the owner/operator for the Tidal Wave Auto Spa at 1501 S. Irby St., which is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, call 843-407-4521. There is also a Tidal Wave Auto Spa at 2139 W. Palmetto St.

said Stevens, a 28-year-old native of Athens, Georgia. "I know I'm the rare one percent of people who just love their jobs. I get to be outside and I take something dirty and make it

See **AUTO**, Page 3A

Hartsville a finalist for 2016 All-America City Award

BY JIM FAILE
The Hartsville Messenger
jfaile@hartsvillemessenger.com



HARTSVILLE — The city of Hartsville is a finalist for the 2016 All-America City Award.

Hartsville joins the ranks of 20 finalist cities from across the country whose representatives will convene in June in Denver, Colorado, to compete in the final round.

"It should come as no surprise

"Citizens of Hartsville have a lot of pride for this city," said City Manager Natalie Zeigler. "The city was named an All-America City in 1996, and we felt the momentum was there and the timing was right this year to submit another application. It would be great to win again 20 years later, but we know we are an All-America City regardless of winning the official title."

The award will be given to the 10 communities that best exem-

greater Hartsville community have focused on these key areas in the last few years with numerous community programs.

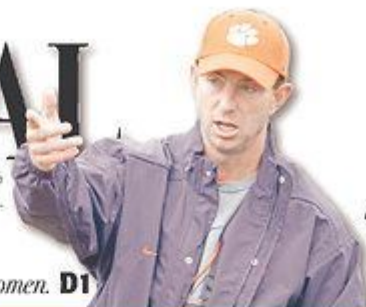
The city's application highlighted several organizations and initiatives whose mission it is to support local children and their families through quality-of-life improvements. Emphasis was placed on collaborative efforts between private and public institutions and local nonprofit organizations.

MAKING PROGRESS

Swinney notices improvement from Tigers after second scrimmage. **C1**

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME: Pickleball picking up in Oconee County. **B1**

MISSPOKEN?: Trump says abortion ban should yield 'punishment' for women. **D1**



'We're always going to think about Zach'



Angie and Paul Hammond — the parents of 19-year-old Zachary Hammond, who was shot and killed by a Seneca police officer in July — address members of the media in Greenville on Wednesday, the day after news broke that the Hammonds will be receiving a \$2.15 million settlement in a federal civil lawsuit.

Hammond parents talk about \$2.15M settlement in Seneca police shooting

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

GREENVILLE — The parents of a young man shot and killed by a Seneca police officer during a hastily prepared drug sting that went awfully wrong a year ago appeared before TV cameras and photographers to talk with reporters on Wednesday, perhaps for the final time.

Angie and Paul Hammond never wished to be in the spotlight talking about the death of their 19-year-old son, Zachary.

On Wednesday, a day after their attorneys and the city of Seneca issued a joint statement announcing

a \$2.15 million settlement to end a civil lawsuit that's been making its way through federal court for the past four months, the parents mustered the courage to stand in the spotlight again.

"The last eight months have been the hardest and most trying time in our lives," Angie Hammond said. "The settlement reached is bittersweet. It will not bring back Zach, but it will bring about change."

It was an equally emotional moment for Paul Hammond, who until now had stoically demonstrated strength during public appearances in support of his wife and family.

"Every day is a battle, and it'll be that way the rest of our lives," he told reporters. "We're always going to think about Zach — that's never going to go away. Like I told my wife, today I told her I've lost a third of my heart. It's now with Zach. I have two-thirds left, and that's why I'm struggling so much. A third belongs to her, and a third to our other son, Dylan. We've just got to keep going somehow."

For a change, it was Angie Hammond who put a hand on her husband's shoulder to support him.

Hammond attorney Eric Bland was peppered with questions about

SEE HAMMOND, PAGE A5



Ram Cat Alley would be among several locations of wireless Internet access points in downtown Seneca if city council members approve a proposal from administrator Greg Dietterick to bring the free service to town.

Getting connected?

Seneca to consider bringing wireless Internet to downtown

BY ERIC SPOTT
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Nothing is set in stone just yet, but it appears free wireless Internet will likely be available in downtown Seneca sometime in the near future.

At Seneca City Council's monthly work session Tuesday night, city administrator Greg Dietterick asked

councilmembers to consider bringing the service to the downtown area at an initial cost of around \$6,000. That figure

would cover costs for equipment for 10 access points, while the city would also pay roughly \$280 per month for maintenance costs.

And while providing a

SEE WIRELESS, PAGE A5

No opposition for sheriff as filing ends

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Unlike four years ago when he was involved in a fierce four-man Republican field fighting to become Oconee County's top lawman, this time around Sheriff Mike Crenshaw has a much easier path to victory in November.

After the deadline for

filing arrived at noon

Wednesday, no candidate emerged wanting to challenge Crenshaw for his badge.

"I am excited for the opportunity to continue the programs

SEE SHERIFF, PAGE A5

Waiting game continues in Haynes building saga

Camlin Moore

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