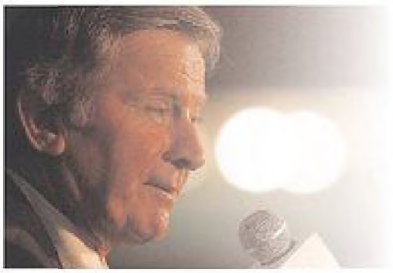
From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 7/16/2014 9:56:54 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, July 16, 2014

SC Front Pages – Wednesday, July 16, 2014



SPORTS Spurrier aims to take South Carolina to the next level. **Page 1D**

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Morning News
WEDNESDAY JULY 16, 2014
www.scnow.com | The Voice of the Pee Dee | 75 cents

TODAY'S WEATHER
A couple of morning thunderstorms. Partly cloudy. High 90 Low 65.
DETAILS 2A

3 county agencies respond to lawsuit

Court date not yet set for fire district appeal

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The county agencies named by Florence County in a lawsuit along with a petition for injunctive relief filed last month responded to the suit late Monday over a special purpose district created by the South Carolina Legislature in May.

The injunction, if granted, would prevent the Florence County Voter Registration and Elections Commission from holding a fire district commissioners election and prevent Auditor Wayne Joye and Treasurer Dean Fowler Jr. from levying fire taxes and distributing those revenues in the West Florence Fire District area.

Each agency retained a lawyer that filed responses far less than the county's 23-page complaint late Monday. Rose Mary Parham of Florence represents Joye, John Nichols of Columbiarepresents the elections commission and Robert Tyson Jr. represents Fowler.

INSIDE
Find out about candidates for the West Florence fire board on **Page 3A.**

The three responses were similar in acknowledging and stating the rare nature of a county suing itself, that the respective offices are not the appropriate agencies to sue, that special purpose districts are not subject to Home Rule and that the issue should go before the lower court where currently part of the county's plan is being appealed.

"In this case, petitioners' complaint is with actions by the General Assembly and the governor," Nichols pens. "Any claims they may have should be asserted against those entities, who should then be defended by the attorney general."

The case sitting in Florence County Common Pleas Court is also a point of contention in the responses that use it as a crutch to deny the petition for original jurisdiction in the state Supreme Court.

"Although the issues in the circuit court case are not identical to those raised in the complaint, the outcome of the circuit court case will have an impact on Florence County's fire protection services as proscribed by the Act," Tyson writes. "If these issues already are being litigated in the circuit court, petitioners cannot meet

PHOTOS BY JOHN D. RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

From left, Ruiz Foods President and CEO Rachel Cullen, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and Ruiz Foods co-founder Fred Ruiz break ground on Tuesday during a ceremony.

Ruiz comes to town

Mexican food company plans to ramp up operations next year

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
jrussell@florencenews.com

Ruiz Foods is in the Pee Dee Electric Cooperative Touchstone Energy Commerce City near Interstate 95, in the former H.J. Heinz facility.

FLORENCE — Sometimes a phone call can make all the difference in the world.

Ruiz Foods President and CEO Rachel P. Cullen said a call early this year from Florence County Economic Development Partnership Executive Director Joe W. King was instrumental in the company's decision to bring more than 500 jobs to Florence.

"Thanks for remembering us," Cullen said as she addressed those gathered for the groundbreaking on Tuesday. "It was that fateful call earlier this year that got the ball rolling and made today a reality."

Ruiz Foods was already looking to expand on the East Coast. Longtime Ruiz Foods board member Wayne Partin, a native of Sumter, had stepped down from the board and two days later was asked to look at Florence as a possible location to expand. He knew right away Florence was the perfect spot for the company, and sales forecasts indicated there would need to be new production this year.

"We couldn't have built this from scratch," Partin said of the former H.J. Heinz facility that Ruiz will be moving into. "It would have taken too long to build this from scratch. It is perfectly laid out, and we won't have to make a lot of changes to make it work."

Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony marks a new beginning in Florence but also a celebration of Ruiz Foods' 50th anniversary. Louis Ruiz, and his son, Fred started the company in 1964. It is best known for its El Monterey and Tornados food products. El Monterey is the No. 1 selling brand of frozen Mexican food in the United States, including burritos, tamales, breakfast burritos and Mexican snacks.

See **RUIZ**, Page 3A

Nichols man fights charge of 'taking' dolphin in net

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@florencenews.com

GEORGETOWN — An 87-

covered a dead dolphin in the share end of his net. Mincey and his grandson put the net out at low tide the night before, as they had been doing

"We got the net off the dolphin, rolled him off the net and he went back in the ocean," Lane said.

Lane, his wife and children

the dolphin.

NOAA officials contend Mincey violated the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act by the "taking" of a dol-

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS ★ ORANGEBURG, S.C. ★ 4 SECTIONS, 26 PAGES ★ VOL. 133 ★ NO. 197

100 OBJECTS IN 100 DAYS

DAY 31

A2 and TheTandD.com

Trio killed fire chief

Testimony: Fracturing love triangle led wife, girlfriend, accomplice to plot details

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

Two of the three women charged in connection with the murder of Branchville Fire Chief Alan Oakley last year were sentenced Tuesday to 30 years in prison.

All three women, including Oakley's wife, admitted they conspired to kill the longtime fireman, who authorities say was involved in a love triangle through the couple's open marriage.

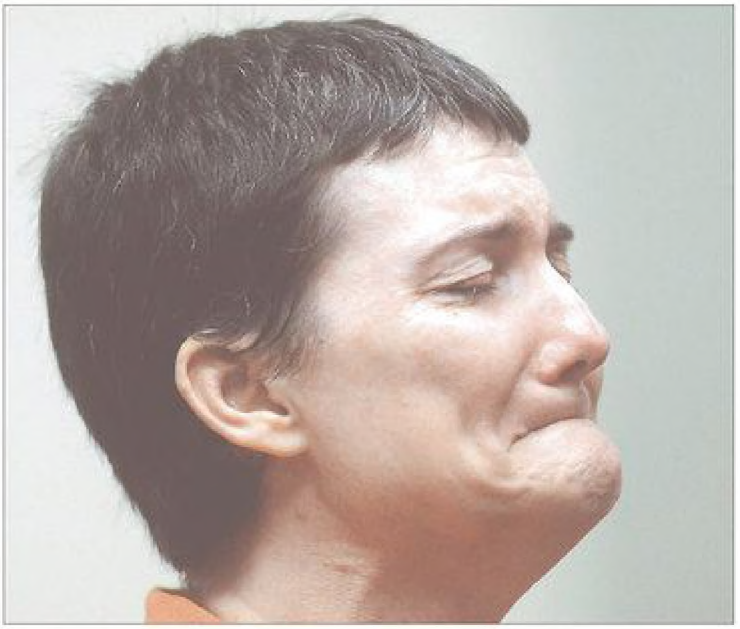
Alan Oakley

Melody Oakley, 41, Ann Anderson, 48, and Carrie Brown, 25, pleaded guilty during a circuit court hearing in Orangeburg.

Melody Oakley was allowed to plead to voluntary manslaughter and conspiracy. She was sentenced to the state's recommendation of 30 years in prison with five years concurrent for conspiracy.

Anderson, who the prosecution said actually carried out the murder, was sentenced to

See TRIO, A3



CHRISTOPHER HUFF/T&D

Melody Oakley, wife of the late Alan Oakley, pleaded guilty Tuesday to her role in the death of her husband. She and two other women conspired to kill him after he suggested breaking up a love triangle.

See video from the court hearing online at TheTandD.com.

CHRISTOPHER HUFF/T&D

Ann Anderson admitted to stabbing the former Branchville fire chief to death.

CHRISTOPHER HUFF/T&D

Carrie Brown was originally supposed to stab Alan Oakley, but backed out.

Kidnapped Calhoun man saved in N.C.

By GENE CRIDER
T&D Managing Editor

A St. Matthews man was rescued early Tuesday from the hands of kidnappers following raids on five locations in North Carolina.

Although ransom demands came from several people calling from several numbers in Mexico, the efforts of hundreds of agents helped the FBI locate the man.

"He's in very good and stable condition now," FBI Special Agent in Charge David Thomas said.

While the 23-year-old man was harmed, he is not hospitalized and has been released back to his family, Thomas said. He did not provide details about the injuries.

Three people have been arrested in connection with the kidnapping, but their names and charges have not yet been released. The investigation is ongoing and more charges are expected.

The man was abducted by a group of people pretending to be law enforcement on July 9 as he was going to work.

"He was snatched out of his truck while it was still running," Thomas said. "He assumed he was pulling over for law enforcement."

"It wasn't random, it was specific. There was no danger to the public at all," Thomas said.

Hours after his disappearance, the victim's family began receiving ransom demands which continued for several days.

"All the demands for his release were coming from Mexico," Thomas said. Each call was made from a different person at a different number, which made them difficult to track.

"They were demanding money for his release," Thomas said.

The Calhoun County Sheriff's Office contacted the State Law Enforcement Division and the FBI.

The FBI said extensive resources were sent to the Charlotte and Columbia FBI field offices by FBI headquarters, including the Hostage Rescue Team. Crisis ne-

See RESCUED, A3

TheTandD.com

Visit this story online to find the full press release from the FBI, including a list of all the agencies involved.

Haley touts work of regulatory task force

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

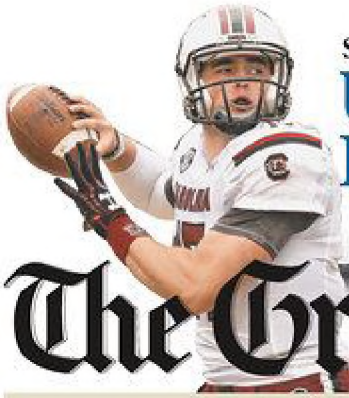
that recommendation list has been dealt with, whether it's gone through and those

A LOOK AT STATE REGULATIONS CHANGED AFTER REVIEW

COLUMBIA (AP) — Gov. Nikki Haley touts the work of a task force she created last year to review business regulations. So far, 31

for clubs so that contracts from boxers and managers must be submitted only upon request.

■ Allowed licensed cos-



SPORTS, 1C
USC'S MAN FOR 1 SEASON

LIFESTYLE, 1D
Chef 360's chef finds perfect mix

The Greenville News
A GANNETT COMPANY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY LAPSES IN BIOTERROR SAFETY MOUNTING PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

SOUTH CAROLINA'S WIND POWER LIES OFFSHORE

The state has created a task force to study offshore wind energy, and lawmakers passed a resolution to recognize the offshore wind resource. Experts say onshore winds are too tepid to support turbines, like this one outside Boston. AP

Wind along Atlantic could generate power for up to 1M homes

By Nathaniel Cary
Staff Writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

In a matter of years, wind mills may rise out of the ocean in the horizon along South Carolina's Grand Strand, while the wind's power may generate a new industry hundreds of miles from the coastal winds.

Experts have identified the best locations for offshore wind power, and maps show the wind is the strongest off the coast of Myrtle Beach. The likeliest place to locate wind mills may lie in the distant sightlines miles off the popular beach.

While the wind mills may not interfere with beach-goers' ocean views, the structures may be visible in the horizon as they rise from the ocean floor about 10 miles off the coast, said Marc John-

Clemson University's new Energy Systems Innovation Center in North Charleston features a 7.5 megawatt wind turbine testing rig. AP

tion's Midwest and Plains states, experts say.

Owens receives maximum sentence

Judge cites excess of cruelty in dragging dog behind truck

By Anna Lee
Staff writer
zlee@greenvillenews.com

Roger Dennis Owens stood shackled and silent as prosecutors described the injuries of a dog they said was left to die.

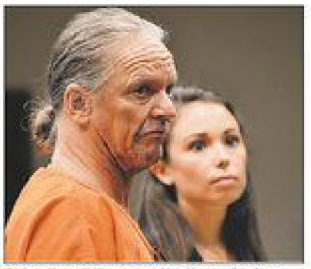
The pit bull mix Owens dragged behind his truck for two miles in Marietta last November was scraped raw when witnesses found her on the side of the road, said Assistant Solicitor Julie Anders.

The dog's hind legs were ripped apart, exposing tendons, Anders said inside a packed courtroom Tuesday. Her back paws were worn down to the flesh.

Circuit Judge Letitia Verdin described the dog's injuries as "one of the cruelest things" she's ever seen and sentenced Owens to the state's maximum penalty for animal cruelty.

Owens, who pleaded guilty to his charges, received five years in prison for ill treatment of animals and another five years, six months for habitual traf-

See OWENS, Page 4A



Roger Dennis Owens, who dragged a dog behind his truck and then left it to die, listens to charges Tuesday. Judge Letitia Verdi sentenced him to 10 years and 6 months on multiple charges. MYKAL MCELDOWNEY/STAFF

Employees suspended in wake of teen's death

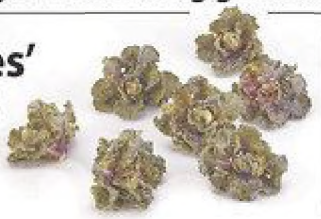
By Tim Smith
Staff writer
tcsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — The state Department of Juvenile Justice won't say why it has suspended three employees in the wake of a Pelzer teen's hanging death Sunday night in a DJJ dorm room.

Alan C. Cottrell, 16, who was in custody at DJJ, was discovered hanging from bedsheets by staff a little before mid-

Former N.Y. Mayor Bloomberg gives to pro-Graham PAC. SOUTH, B1

Will 'kalettes' be the next hit veggie?
FOOD, D1



Why this is USC's year in SEC
GENE SAPAKOFF, C1

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2014 POSTANDCOURIER.COM Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ $1.00

Activists decry suspicion over hoodie

Seek better accounting of officer's confrontation with teen

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

If a Charleston police officer had not confronted him for wearing a hoodie in the summertime heat, Denzel Cornell's death last month might have been avoided, civil liberties advocates and experts said Tuesday.

Cornell, 19, shot himself June 26 during a struggle with Officer Jamal Medlin outside the Bridgeview Village apartments, according to authorities.

Medlin had taken note of the young man's long pants and the sweatshirt hood over his head. He found Cornell's dress "odd" and a sign of possible criminal behavior.

But local activists regarded as offensive any police action prompted by clothing widely worn by young black men, and a nationally known civil liberties expert called it "classic stereotyping." The officer also is black.

Samuel Walker, a Nebraska criminal justice professor who has testified about

Please see **CORNELL,** Page A4

Inside

Brian Hicks: Cornell's legacy should be police transparency. A2

Pastor Thomas Dixon speaks last week at a news conference where the NAACP discussed the investigation into the death of 19-year-old Denzel Cornell.

FILE/ANDREW KNAPP/ STAFF

Splashy send-off

Well-wishers watch Briar the loggerhead swim home after surgery, rehab

MICHAEL PROZATO/STAFF

Online
For more photos and a video from the release, go to **postandcourier.com/multimedia.**

Briar has been returned to the sea.

Hundreds came to the Isle of Palms Tuesday to watch South Carolina Aquarium staff release the endangered loggerhead turtle into the wild.

Briar, a young adult female, was rehabilitated at the aquarium after cataract surgery.

Animal Eye Care of the Lowcountry performed the operation.

"The crowds are very excited to come out here today to participate in this," said Dr. Anne Cook, of Animal Eye Care.

Briar is being released despite the potential limits of her eyesight after the surgery — a first for the aquarium. Loggerheads' prey tends to be slow-moving or attached to something stationary, so less than perfect eyesight seemed worth the risk, according to aquarium staff. An egg-laying female, like Briar, could help restore the threatened population.

— Matt Sartwell

Another round for bar debate

Council under fire for quick initial approval of early closing time

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

Charleston City Council acted too quickly when it gave initial approval to an ordinance that would require new bars in the peninsula's entertainment district to close at midnight instead of 2 a.m., says Chairman Bill Moody.

The group simply didn't have enough information on the ordinance when it voted in favor of it May 27, and the problem it was supposed to solve were not clearly defined, Moody said.

Many members of the city's bar and restaurant industry have said they also think the ordinance is flawed. And they will have the opportunity to voice their concerns at a public meeting on the matter Thursday.

"If I had to do it again, I wouldn't do it this way," Moody said.

Council members voted 12-1 to support the ordinance largely because Charleston Mayor Joe Riley, Police Chief Greg Mullen and Tim Keane, the city's planning director, said the area had reached a "tipping point."

Please see **BARS,** Page A4

If you go

WHAT: Public meeting on late-night bar closing ordinance
WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Thursday
WHERE: Auditorium, Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting St.

McLeod in lead as S.C. hospital profits jump to $1.1 billion

Fourth-place Trident Medical Center made nearly $80M in 2013

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

South Carolina hospitals made a combined $1.1 billion profit last year — a 70 percent jump since 2011, according to data that the state's Department of Health and Human Services will publish online Wednesday.

While the agency, which offered The Post and Courier an early look at the numbers, says it posts hospital data periodically online to shed some light on an industry that has made its finances notoriously opaque, the South Carolina Hospital Association worries that the data may misrepresent how much money these facilities are really making. The association supports the effort to improve transparency, with reservations, its president said.

"A major concern is the agency's use of unaudited and incomplete financial data that tend to distort profit levels for hospitals throughout the state," said Hospital Association President Thorton Kirby, in a prepared statement.

Each hospital had an opportunity to double-check their own numbers, which were culled from cost reports filed with the federal government, the agency confirmed.

McLeod Regional Medical Center posted a higher profit than any other hospital for a second year in a row. The Florence hospital made $154 million during the 2013 fiscal year, about $5 million less than it made in 2012.

Please see **HOSPITALS,** Page A4

Poll
Do you think how much money a hospital makes is a reflection of the quality of care patients receive? Find this story at **postandcourier.com** to vote.

Top 10 most profitable S.C. hospitals

During the 2013 fiscal year, the following 10 hospitals earned the highest profits in the state:

1. McLeod Regional Medical Center (Florence): **$154 million**
2. AnMed Health (Anderson): **$84 million**
3. Greenville Memorial: **$80.9 million**
4. Trident Medical Center: **$79.2 million**
5. St. Francis Hospital (Greenville): **$67.5 million**
6. Grand Strand Medical Center: **$65.3 million**
7. Palmetto Health Richland: **$61.7 million**
8. Roper Hospital: **$53.4 million**
9. Palmetto Health Baptist (Columbia): **$50.3 million**
10. Bon Secours St. Francis Hospital: **$44.2 million**

— Source: S.C. Department of Health and Human Services, schealthdata.org

Chance of storms. High 90. Low 70. Complete 5-day forecast, **B12**

Bridge B11
Business B2
Classifieds E1
Comics B10, 11
Crossword B10, 15
Editorials A12
Food D1
Movies E9
Obituaries B4
Sports C1
Television E8
The South B1

Charleston Deals today
Charleston House of Pizza
Pay $10 to spend $20.
See A2

124TH YEAR, NO. 149 | SOUTH CAROLINA'S NEWSPAPER | $1.00 | COPYRIGHT © 2014 | CAPITAL FINAL

HOOVER OFF AIR FOR YEAR: Ex-WIS anchor faces local blackout. **A2**

SPURRIER SAYS

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier was in fine form at SEC Media Days on Tuesday. Some of his quips:

"Maybe we should have let him play with long hair. He looks like he joined Duck Dynasty instead of the media."
– On former QB Stephen Garcia

"I left Florida thinking I was going to coach in the NFL five or six years and retire to the beach and travel around. That was a bad plan."
– On becoming the first SEC coach with 10 years at two different schools

"I was available and I was the only one they offered the job to. I wanted to go out a winner, not a loser."
– On taking the South Carolina job

"He is sort of like the owner of a (NFL) team. They put the money up. The good thing about it, they don't tell us what to do."
– On USC super booster Joe Rice, who took Spurrier on a trip to the Bahamas

"When a coach tries to talk his player into staying, it's just not smart. It's time to move on."
– On players leaving early for the NFL draft

IN SPORTS: Ron Morris column: How the USC offense shapes up. **C1** | Josh Kendall: Stephen Garcia and his new career. **C1**
GOGAMECOCKS.COM: Videos, photo galleries and more coverage of the SEC Media days

The State
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

EXCLUSIVE

USC's Darla Moore School of Business sparkles in debut

GERRY MELENDEZ/GMELENDEZ@THESTATE.COM

Workers wash skylight panels Tuesday inside the Darla Moore School of Business. One of the main features throughout the building is the amount of natural light that streams in.

New business school boasts 'wow factor'

By ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thestate.com

Audrey Korsgaard beamed over her office in the University of South Carolina's new, ultra-green Darla Moore School of Business building on Tuesday.

The head of the school's management department can sit in her ergonomic chair by a large window with shades to cut the glare. If she's tired of sitting, Korsgaard can raise her desk high enough

BULL STREET PROJECT

City OKs stadium funding

City Council approves up to $35 million to build ballpark

By CLIF LeBLANC
cleblanc@thestate.com

Columbia has given its final major endorsement to building a $35 million public stadium that would bring professional baseball back to the Capital City.

City Council on Tuesday voted to commit the city to borrowing that much money and repaying it with meal taxes for the next 30 years.

The vote was 4-1, with Councilman Moe Baddourah casting the only "no" vote. The District 3 representative said later that he opposes public funding on a stadium, wants a cost/benefit analysis before a vote and supports a public referendum on whether to build a stadium.

Councilwoman Leona Plaugh, a critic of using taxpayer money to build a year-round ballpark, and Councilman Brian DeQuincey Newman, a supporter of the stadium, did not attend the meeting at City Hall.

The second and final vote on construction funding took all of three minutes – an anticlimax

SEE **STADIUM** PAGE **A6**

Business as usual for Benjamin despite testimony

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin was all business during Tuesday's City Council meeting, despite surprise testimony in a recent trial about the mayor's unpublicized trip to Florida in 2010 that included a visit to a strip club.

And no member of the public or City Council – including council member Moe Baddourah, known for occasionally criticizing Benjamin – Benjamin's policies – brought the subject up. It was the first council meeting

SEE **BENJAMIN** PAGE **A6**

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WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2014 AIKENSTANDARD.COM Vol. 148, No. 197 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Reading and relaxing at the Albrecht Center

STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Macy Bagwell, 11, left, and Ava Bagwell, 7, spend time with Citrus while participating in the Read & Relax program at the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare.

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Citrus was a little leery at first, so she retreated to the far corner of her bed to watch quietly for a while. But then the 2-year-old dog started moving around and sniffing the visitors to her kennel at the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare last week.

Eventually, after checking out everybody, Citrus settled down and sat looking over the shoulder of Ava Bagwell, who was reading a book of poems for kids out loud. Ava, 7, was there with her mother, Bobbi Bagwell, and her 11-year-old sister, Macy Bagwell, to participate in the Albrecht Center's Read & Relax program.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," said Bagwell, a member of the Albrecht Center's board of directors. "My daughters get to brush up on their reading while they're out of school, and it calms down the dogs. The dogs learn that when they're around people, they don't have to always be in their faces asking for a treat or wanting to play ball."

Citrus, a Chinese Shar-Pei/Labrador retriever mix, seemed to benefit from spending part of the afternoon with the Bagwells.

"I didn't think she was going to get off of her bed, but now she's gotten comfortable with us and is acting curious instead of kind of cowering," Bagwell said.

STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Want to participate?
To learn more about Read & Relax at the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare, call 803-648-6863 or visit the shelter at 199 Willow Run Road.

Madison Leslie, 7, reads a book to puppies while participating in the Read & Relax program at the SPCA Albrecht Center for Animal Welfare.

The Read & Relax concept isn't new to the Albrecht Center. For nearly two years, the program has been one of the opportunities offered to the facility's registered volunteers, who must be 16 years of age or older.

Please see **READING**, Page 5A

AREA DEATHS

John Phillip Boatwright, Aiken
Andrew Myers, Williston
Anthony Duane Cook, Aiken
June Charles, Aiken
Kevin Edward Pomeroy, Warrenville

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Cold War Patriots talk benefits, six-figure payments for retirees

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

JOHNSTON — The message the Cold War Patriots sent to Savannah River Site retirees was names on it.

The organization held two of its four, local meetings Tuesday at Strom Thurmond High School in Johnston. There, more than 70 SRS retirees gathered to learn if a retiree who spent 24 years working with the Department of Energy at various sites, including SRS.

Pullen was exposed to radiation in his work and said he was seek-

INSIDE TODAY

Spurrier, South Carolina talk future at media day
Sports, 1B

Storm debris funds arrive

City receives FEMA checks

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

The City of Aiken has so far received roughly $1.2 million through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, for emergency and recovery work completed due to February's ice storm.

Currently, the City has two checks in hand for mutual aid work completed by City crews and other municipalities, including Lexington and Greenville, after the storm. Reportedly, a third check is in the mail.

Dewar

City employees worked many hours cleaning up debris, removing hangers and enacting protective measures after Winter Storm Pax dropped more than an inch of ice on Aiken County. Because of that work, the City racked up emergency and recovery expenses, hoping the federal government and the state would reimburse it in full.

The City received a check for about $562,076 – roughly $99,000 less than requested – for a possible 85 percent reimbursement for the first 30 days of storm cleanup, according to City officials. The second check was for about $61,707 – roughly $20,000 less than requested – for a possible 75 percent reimbursement for emergency protected measures.

Please see **FUNDS**, Page 5A

Local payments

- **Clinton:** $5,074.22
- **Rock Hill:** $7,147.00
- **Lexington:** $5,332.51
- **Springdale:** $693.42
- **Greenwood:** $21,207.78
- **Greenville:** $143,109.18

HIGH: 88
LOW: 70
Weather, 4B

$27 for custom address stamp from PSA Essentials at dealsaver.com/Beaufort

F-35'S FUTURE
Pentagon lifts order grounding all new F-35 fighter jets 6A

The Beaufort Gazette

WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2014 | **beaufortgazette.com** | Established in 1897 75 cents

RECHARGING A BEAUFORT
TRADITION

ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET
The daily arts and crafts market at the Promenade at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park kicks off Friday from noon to 7 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY
Gates open at 6 p.m. Friday for the 7 p.m. waterfront park ceremony. There will be free shuttle service from the Beaufort County Government Center.

MORE ONLINE
For an interactive festival schedule for your smartphone or iPad, go to **bit.ly/h2ofest-sked** on your device's Web browser and save it to your home screen.

DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Jeremy Brown, left, of St. Helena Island, talks with Kin Mack, of Beaufort, as they attach electrical wires to a light post Tuesday in preparation for the arts and crafts market that runs daily in front of the Beaufort Downtown Marina during the Beaufort Water Festival, which starts Friday.

HORSE-CARRIAGE OPERATIONS

Council discusses changes

3 proposals would require altering city's ordinance

By ERIN MOODY
emoody@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8184

Beaufort City Council is considering a number of changes to rules governing horse-carriage operations in an effort to address concerns about the horses and stem ongoing disputes between owners.

PROPOSED CHANGES
- Addition of a third-party veterinarian
- Requirement that horses wear shoes
- Addition of a late-afternoon tour to the daily schedule

City Council discussed recommendations from the Tourism Management Advisory Commission during its work session Tuesday.

Three of the proposed changes — the addition of a third-party veterinarian to do spot checks of the animals, a requirement that horses wear shoes and the addition of a late-afternoon tour to the daily schedule — would require changes to the city's ordinance

Please see COUNCIL on 9A

IN OTHER BUSINESS, BEAUFORT CITY COUNCIL:

- Discussed plans by Main Street Beaufort, USA, and city staff to put up wayfinding signs throughout the city and downtown.
- Discussed plans for the proposed Mossy Oaks fire station. Groundbreaking is planned between Sept. 15 and Oct. 1, according to an updated schedule.
- Discussed possible changes to the membership, authority and powers of the Building Board of Appeals.
- Heard from city manager Scott Dadson about making codes enforcement part of fire department duties rather than contracting the work out.

RIVER RIDGE ACADEMY IN BLUFFTON

Price for school could rise by $4M

By SARAH BOWMAN
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843-706-8138

A new Bluffton elementary school could cost $4 million more than originally budgeted, school board members learned Tuesday.

Construction of the River Ridge Academy, already underway at the intersection of S.C. 170 and Bluffton Parkway, was funded at a price tag of $25 million by a 2008 referendum. But inflation and expansion of the project could put the price closer to $28.8 million.

The school board's Finance and Operations Committee unanimously approved the higher price Tuesday. To cover the difference, the committee also unanimously approved a motion to use funds left over from previous projects.

"If you think about how long ago the referendum occurred, and with the changes in costs and scope of the project, I think the ability to get the price that close is very good," said

Please see SCHOOL on 9A

House GOP won't back Obama border request

By ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Repub-

MORE INSIDE
A poll finds public disapproval of the way President Barack Obama

AGENCY UPDATES 30-YEAR-OLD GUIDELINES

Pregnant workers given boost

NEW POLICY

The Equal Employment Opportunity

By TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pregnant women have new protections against job discrimination.

DOING IT ALL

Kennedy Hill is a normal 9-year-old girl, but she suffered an injury at birth that left her without the use of her right arm E1

Weather

Partly sunny
High 86
Low 64

Herald-Journal

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HJ IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today

Guard option

As protests continue in South Texas, House Republicans say they'll call for sending the National Guard to the border in response to the immigration crisis. PAGE A3

Deadly bombing

A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives near a busy market and a mosque in eastern Afghanistan Tuesday, killing at least 89 people in the deadliest insurgent attack on civilians since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. PAGE A5

Highway funding

With an August deadline looming, the House voted Tuesday to temporarily patch over a multi-billion-dollar pothole in federal highway and transit programs while ducking the issue of how to put them on long-term sound financial footing. PAGE A6

Best hospital

Spartanburg Medical Center was recognized recently as the best hospital in the state by U.S. News & World Report. PAGE C1

'False dawns'

Despite recent sizable job gains, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is signaling that her agency is in no rush to withdraw the massive support it is providing the U.S. economy. Extra caution is warranted, she said Tuesday, given a number of "false dawns" in this recovery. PAGE C6

On the Web

Visit **GoUpstate.com** for breaking news and sports stories, and to

Initiative to survey cultural resources

By FELICIA KITZMILLER
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

A half dozen Cowpens residents clustered around a map at the Timken Community Center Tuesday morning pointing out cultural landmarks just as fast as The Arts Partnership of Greater Spartanburg President Jennifer Evins could note their location and description.

In a matter of minutes, the small group added 10 cultural items to the map, including the historic marker for a jail demolished long ago, a farmers market and a community mural. None of the landmarks were previously noted by

Evins

Arts Partnership staff or the Spartanburg County planning department staff that helped compile the map.

"This is why we're doing this," Evins said as she added another point to the map.

Despite the small turnout, Evins said the first public meeting of the Culture Counts project was a success, and the community will have 10 more opportunities to point out cultural assets at public input sessions across the county through the remainder of the summer.

Future Culture Counts meetings

- Thursday at Woodruff City Hall
- July 31 at Campobello Gramling Elementary
- Aug. 7 at District 5 Fine Arts Center
- Aug. 12 at Upstate Family Resource Center
- Sept. 4 at Chapman Cultural Center.
- Meetings start at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on each day.

Culture Counts is an initiative led by the Chapman Cultural Center, a subset of the Arts Partnership, to identify and inventory all cultural needs, opportunities and resources in Spartanburg County. Resources are defined as places with historic or creative significance, and people who participate in creative endeavors as professionals or hobbyists.

Culture Counts is the spawn of Evins' personal inventory of downtown cultural resources. When she identified and mapped more than 75 public sculptures, 34 live performance venues and 158 studios and workshops, Evins said she felt compelled to show her findings to others.

◆ SEE CULTURAL PAGE A4

DYLAN THOMPSON SPEAKS AT SEC MEDIA DAY

'Just enjoy the moment'

Senior quarterback ready to take over starting job at USC

By MATT CONNOLLY
matthew.connolly@shj.com

HOOVER, Ala.

During Tuesday morning's trip to SEC Media Days, Dylan Thompson advised fellow Gamecocks A.J. Cann and J.T. Surratt on dealing with the upcoming hectic day.

"I told the guys on the plane let's have a good time with it. Don't be some cardboard box walking around being the same everywhere. Let's have fun," said Thompson, a redshirt senior from Boiling Springs. "I don't want to be a guy that sits up here and has no answers. Let's have a good time and enjoy the process."

As the new face of Gamecocks' football program, Thompson will be counted on to be a leader on plane rides, during interviews and most importantly on the field this season. His first appearance in the spotlight as South Carolina's starting quarterback came Tuesday, as he spent nearly three hours answering questions from media outlets from around the country.

With about 1,300 credentialed media members on hand, Thompson rotated to 12 different rooms, including meetings with CBS, ESPN and SiriusXM. He took it all in stride, answering questions with confidence and charisma.

"I just wanted to be real for everyone, just have a good time, not really stress at all and just enjoy the

DOUG FINGER/THE GAINESVILLE SUN

Former Boiling Springs High School quarterback and current South Carolina Gamecock Dylan Thompson fields questions Tuesday during day two of the 2014 SEC Media Days at the Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel in Hoover, Ala.

"He's a five-year guy that has got one year to make his mark in college football. He's got one year to do his thing.

Inside

South Carolina

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2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES | WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014 | DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY $1.50

And now the end is near for civic center

County council says it's time to take facility down

By FRANK BUMB
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Greenwood County Council's long saga with the civic center is rapidly approaching a close.

In a strong display of unity and intent Tuesday, County Council unanimously passed a resolution expressing their determination to see the 42,000-square-foot civic center demolished.

Councilman Chuck Moates said previously he would seek a resolution expressing the council's desire to tear down the 38-year-old civic center. During Tuesday's regular council meeting, Moates said he hoped the resolution would help bring the issue to a close.

"In the present condition, the civic center is no longer a viable asset for the county," he said. "The cost of refurbishing the civic center would place an onerous and unwanted burden on the citizens of this county."

A report from the Civic Center Committee — chaired by Charlie Herndon — went into great detail about the civic center's viability to reopen since its 2009 closure.

"The committee concludes that reopening the civic center as an events venue is not feasible due to other competing facilities available in the area," it said.

But the cost to get the civic center back to its old functionality is prohibitive, county officials said.

Greenwood County projects manager Rossie Corwon estimated the cost just to reopen and operate the civic center at about $3.4 million.

"To repurpose it and bring it up to code would be even more than that," Corwon said.

Council Chairman Mark Allison said the decision — supported by all seven members of council — was not a happy one.

"But I feel comfortable with how we handled it," he said.

Other long-range considerations for the building included whether it could be repurposed in some way for use by existing county offices and departments.

MARK ALLISON

"We went to staff, we've consulted with the sheriff, engineering has consulted with the sheriff's office and other entities about whether or not they thought this building could be remodeled and revitalized," Allison said. "Constantly and consistently they have said no."

The resolution also authorizes county manager Toby Chappell to procure bids for the demolition of the building and conduct site repair. Chappell said he hopes to accept bids soon.

Corwon said she did not have a timeframe for the bid process, but hopes to complete it by the end of September.

County attorney Stephen Baggett said an ordinance appropriating funds for the demolition would be required.

"The resolution doesn't order the demolition of the civic center," he said. "It just expresses County Council's desire to move forward in that direction."

See CENTER, page 4A

CITY COUNCIL

Abbeville ready for new downtown corridor

By COLIN RIDDLE
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ABBEVILLE — The final specifications to bid for the South Main Streetscape project Phase 10 are being prepared and issued, following action by City Council. Construction is expected to begin in mid-August and end in mid-November, according to a tentative time frame prepared by Spartanburg-based landscape architectural design firm, Nature Forms LLC.

The final specifications are waiting approval from the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the Upper Savannah Council of Governments. Bidding for the contract will be closed at the end of the month. Selection and recommendations will follow prior to final approval of a bidder.

The grant is being funded by a Community Development Block Grant of $454,545 from the state Department of Commerce. Phase 10 includes the section of South Main Street in downtown Abbeville running from Magazine Street to Highway 72.

The Community Development Block Grant Program provides grants to units of local government in areas of the state that do not directly receive their own funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants fund a variety of projects, including revitalizing neighborhoods, improving community infrastructure, providing public facilities and creating or retaining jobs.

Phase 10 marks the final phase of the project, and provides a new corridor to Abbeville's Historic Downtown. The project includes improving pedestrian walkways, lighting enhancements, landscaping improvements and the removal of overhead utility lines.

The city submitted the grant in partnership with the Upper Savannah Council of Governments. The grant

ST. CLAIRE DONAGHY | INDEX-JOURNAL

Laura Ann Wright, second from right, celebrated her 108th birthday in June. Although she never married or had children of her own, this retired teacher helped raise several nieces and nephews. With her, from left, are cousin and caregiver Betty Wilson, niece Bernita Wright and niece Deborah Carroll.

Living Wright

Saluda's Laura Ann Wright reflects on her 108 years

By ST. CLAIRE DONAGHY
sdonaghy@indexjournal.com

Retired educator Laura Ann Wright of Saluda celebrated what is believed to be her 108th birthday June 15. She said the keys to her longevity lie in "trying to eat properly, honoring my mother and father and the rest is the Lord's part."

Like many her age, the only known record of her birth was recorded in a family Bible long ago. Family members are unsure whether that Bible still exists.

State Sen. Floyd Nicholson is trying to find out where Wright ranks among oldest living South Carolina residents.

Wright shares a home with her cousin and caregiver, 67-year-old Betty Wilson. Although Wright never married or had children of her

See WRIGHT, page 3A

Sylvia Wood Heironimus, 75 watches her 100-year-old mother Evelyn Ezell play the "Happy Birthday" song by memory inside their home on Blyth Avenue on Tuesday to celebrate their joint birthday, which is July 15.

MADDY JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL

Mother, daughter celebrate same birthday — for 75th year

By ST. CLAIRE DONAGHY
sdonaghy@indexjournal.com

Evelyn Ezell, 100, and daughter Sylvia Wood Heironimus, 75, both of Greenwood share a birthday July 15.

and raised a daughter and a son, Richard Wood.

"We've always celebrated birthdays together," Sylvia Heironimus said. "As I got older, mother and I

See BIRTHDAY, page 4A

TRAVEL: Vacationing with teens this summer? 5 tips to help everyone have fun **A5**

the Sumter ITEM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894 75 cents

FOOD

Here are 4 new takes on a favorite summer side dish **C8**

No more lunch money

All Sumter, Clarendon 2 district students will eat free meals this school year

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
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(803) 774-1214

Parents can rest easy when it comes to paying for their children's school meals next academic year.

All Sumter School District students will officially have free lunch and breakfast starting this fall semester.

The district was recently approved for the federally funded program established by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 after it was determined the district had enough students qualifying for either free or reduced-priced lunch programs to become eligible.

"Currently, the district has universal free breakfast, and we were reimbursed for that, and that didn't include reduced or full-priced meals," said Leon Williams, food service director for the district. "This will be a huge change because every student will receive free lunch and breakfast through the program."

To be eligible for the free lunch program, the school district had to agree to pay for any costs of providing the free meals that might go above the federal funding it will receive.

Williams and the district expect a number of benefits from being approved for

SEE **FREE LUNCH,** PAGE A6

Family's home reignites after evening blaze

Floyd Bryant, owner of the home that caught fire Monday night on Crowndale Drive, speaks with a firefighter outside his home.

BRADEN BUNCH / THE SUMTER ITEM

ZOEY MILLER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Sumter Fire Department firefighters work to put out a fire Monday night at a home in the 1300 block of Crowndale Drive. Firefighters battled the fire for two hours, thinking they had it extinguished, only to return six hours later after it reignited.

Red Cross helping 3 after series of overnight fires destroyed house

BY BRADEN BUNCH
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Unfortunately for Floyd Bryant and his family, the second fire was even worse.

A series of blazes starting Monday night destroyed a home in the 1300 block on Crowndale Drive, bringing firefighters from four Sumter Fire Department stations and Shaw Air Force Base as well to the scene.

garage until about 9 p.m. Monday, when some sort of spark ignited the gas in a giant fireball, blowing out the metal garage door.

The theory seems to correlate with Bryant's experience during the night.

"We heard a loud explosion. We looked outside. It was so loud, I didn't know what had happened," Bryant said. "It sounded like a shotgun."

Shortly after the blast, Bryant

With the fire seemingly extinguished and damage kept primarily to the attached garage and surrounding cars, officials estimated they were able to save about $85,000 in property.

Unfortunately, at 5 a.m. Tuesday, some six hours after they left the scene, firefighters received another call, saying the house was on fire yet again. This time, the fire spread throughout the home, gutting it and destroying anything

Man charged 2nd time with tattooing child

BY ROB COTTINGHAM
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Once wasn't enough, apparently.

A Sumter man has been charged for illegal tattooing practices for the second time in a two-and-a-half-year span.

Deputies with Sumter County Sheriff's Office have arrested Shawn M. Boykin, 27, of 112 Victory Drive and charged him with the crime after he allegedly gave a middle-school student a tattoo.

"Our school resource officer at Chestnut Oaks Middle School noticed a student walking around with a tattoo on him," said Lt. Robert Burnish of the sheriff's office. "From there, she checked things out and discovered where they were coming from."

Burnish said the resource officer came to the sheriff's office and filed a report in May, and the follow-up investigation led to the arrest. She's since been transferred to investigations.

The 14-year-old student reportedly had his name tattooed on his upper right arm. Burnish wasn't sure if there were other cases pending.

"This is the only case we have so far,"

SEE **TATTOOS,** PAGE A6

Protest hearing doesn't derail Manning runoff

BY JIM HILLEY
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Tuesday's special election runoff in Manning will go on as planned after the Manning Election Commission voted Tuesday to recertify the results of the Manning City Council District 5 special election held July 8.

The commission held the hearing to

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THE JOURNAL

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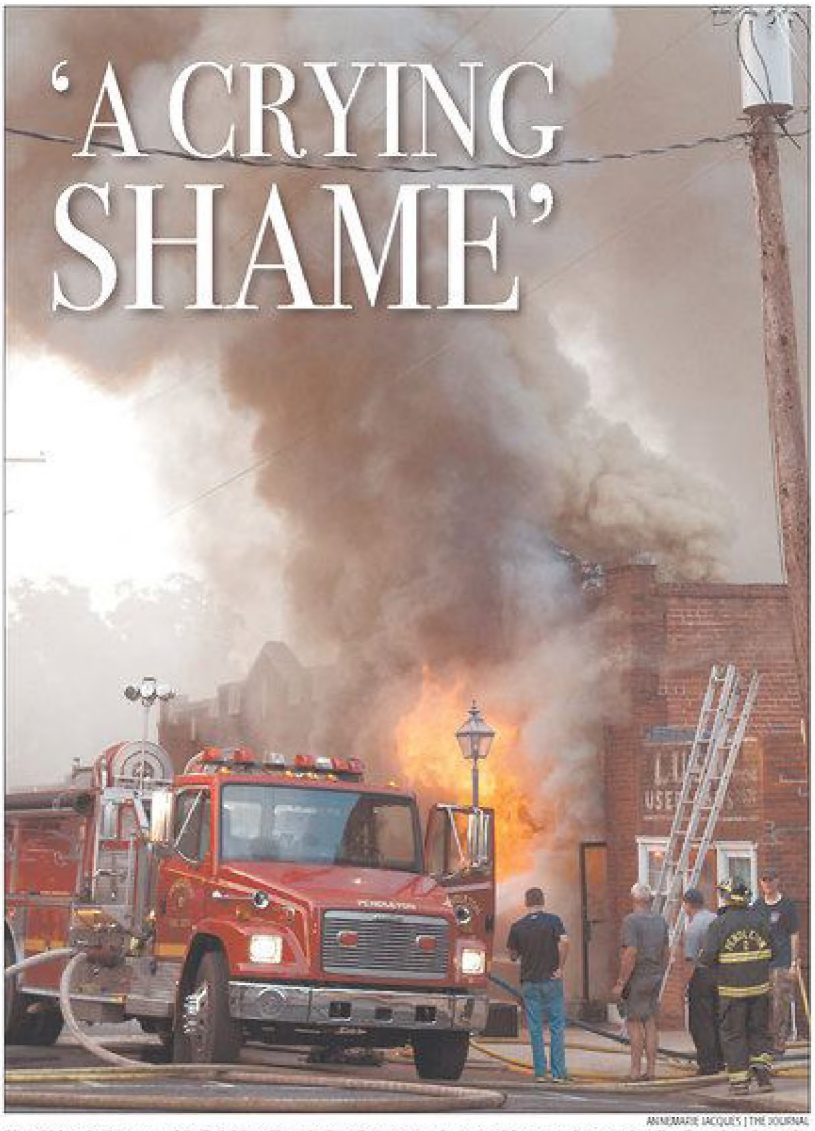
WHAT DROPOFF? *Clemson coaches enter season with chip on shoulder.* **C1**

SUMMER FUN: *World of Energy hosts Wednesday activities for kids.* **B1**

SANCTIONS COMING?: *U.S. considers taking action against Russia.* **D1**

'A CRYING SHAME'



ANNEMARIE JACQUES | THE JOURNAL

Blue Ridge Antiques and Refinishing Shop in Pendleton was destroyed in an early-morning fire Tuesday. According to the shop owner, Charlie Moore, the building was built around 1900.

JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Firefighters from four fire stations worked until the afternoon to keep control of the fire on East Main Street in Pendleton on Tuesday.

Early-morning fire destroys Pendleton antique store

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

PENDLETON — An early-morning fire destroyed an historic building and antique shop in downtown Pendleton on Tuesday.

Many local residents and nearby business owners came to watch the fire at Blue Ridge Antiques and Refin-

SEE **FIRE,** PAGE **A6**

Tax proposal heads to voters

BY STEVEN BRADLEY AND NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — After more than a year of discussion, the fate of a proposed 1 percent sales tax referendum to fund more than $36 million in capital projects is now officially in the hands of Oconee County voters.

County council unanimously approved final reading of an ordinance Tuesday night that will put the sales tax question to the voters in the form of a referendum in the Nov. 4 general election.

If approved in November, the referendum would increase the sales tax in the county from 6 to 7 cents per dollar for up to eight years. Proceeds from the additional 1 percent sales tax would go to fund an estimated $36.5 million for capital building projects submitted to the council in April by the Capital Sales Tax Commission.

Council chair Joel Thrift said this week the idea behind the increase

SEE **TAX,** PAGE **A5**

SALES TAX REFERENDUM
November 2014

Capital Sales Tax Referendum Priority List

Seneca library branch	$7.7M
Northern economic development water line extension	$1.15M
Indoor recreation/aquatic center	$11M
Foothills agriculture resource center	$6.705M
Westminster library renovation	$1.3M
Golden Corner Comm. Center/Southern library branch	$4.37M
Salem recreation/senior center	$736,200
Salem library branch	$2.034M
Walhalla library renovation	$1.04M
Oconee Heritage Center	$425,000

Talks under way on Harper's building

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The collapse of a roof at the former Harper's 5 & 10 department store caused a commotion in downtown Seneca four years ago on June 1, 2010.

Apparently, the weight of torrential rains was too much for the roof of one of the most prominent buildings in Seneca during its heyday. That day, East North First Street was blocked for hours as crews worked to clear the area of broken widows and debris in front of the big-box store at 222 E. North 1st St.

City officials moved quickly to condemn the building. When the owner, the Rev. Efford Haynes, missed court-ordered deadlines to either repair or demolish, the octogenarian was held in contempt and sentenced to 10 days in jail in 2012.

City attorney Mike Smith said Tuesday that talks are under way with Haynes' attorney to resolve pending code enforcement issues.

"We are meeting, but there's no resolution at this point," Smith said.

The Journal was unable to reach Haynes' attorney. Columbia lawyer Richard Harpootlian, for comment.

Signs posted on the

SEE **HARPER'S,** PAGE **A5**

Hair-razing event

Seneca police officers go bald for a cause

Anna Smith, standing left, and longtime friend Lacosta Rothell have fun giving "Kojaks" to Seneca police officers who raised money by having their heads shaved at the Seneca Police Department on Monday. Seated for the cuts are, from left, investigator Mike Teramano, communications supervisor

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