


From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 10/26/2016 7:57:14 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, October 26, 2016

SC Front Pages – Wednesday, October 26, 2016

The Post and Courier

FOUNDED 1803 •  WINNER OF THE 2015 PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Health care costs fuel campaigns

Is report of sharp price hikes for Obamacare a lifeline for Trump?

BY STEVE PEOPLES
and JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

DORAL, FLORIDA — Suddenly armed with fresh political ammunition, Donald Trump and anxious Republicans across the nation seized on spiking health care costs Tuesday in a final-days push to spark election momentum.

The Republican presidential nominee, trekking across must-win Florida, insisted "Obamacare is just blowing up" after the government projected sharp cost increases for President Barack Obama's signature health care law.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, fighting to block Trump in the same battleground state, has vowed to preserve insurance for the millions



Clinton

Trump

of American covered under the law, but her team described the cost surge as a "big concern."

Please see **CAMPAIGN**, Page A10

S.C. residents buying Obamacare facing higher rates, little choice

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@postandcourier.com

Experts are concerned about the lack of choices next year for South Carolinians who are purchasing health insurance through Obamacare.

Only one company in this state, BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, will offer these plans on Health-

Care.gov when open enrollment begins on Nov. 1. In April, United Healthcare announced that it was leaving the marketplace.

Then in August, Aetna reported the same. BlueChoice, a subsidiary of BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, is also exiting the marketplace.

Please see **OBAMACARE**, Page A10

S.C.'s billion-dollar battle over clean air

Haley among Obama plan's foes, despite chance of customer savings



Rings were being constructed at the site of two new reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Power Station in Jenkinsville in September. The rings were placed atop each other, creating the reactor.

BY DOUG PARDUE
and TONY BARTELME
tpardue@postandcourier.com
dpardue@postandcourier.com

South Carolina electricity customers could save as much as \$1 billion a year thanks to the Obama administration's Clean Air Plan and steps here to shift from

coal toward nuclear power.

But that savings could go up in smoke if S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson and Gov. Nikki Haley have their way.

Wilson and Haley are part of a coalition of utilities, coal companies and 27 states challenging the Obama plan in federal court.

It's a titanic legal battle happen-

ing amid the global threat of a rapidly changing climate, a fight that pits the fossil fuel industry against an equally hefty alliance of environmental groups, public health advocates and 18 other states.

The impact of this court drama will surge through the nation's electric grids and ratepayers' wallets.

In South Carolina, billions of dollars hang in the balance, a Post and Courier analysis found.

How we got here

The issues behind this court battle are complex and full of what ifs, but the stakes are clear.

Please see **AIR**, Page A6



LOU KRASCY/AP

Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, is chairman of the state's Joint Bond Review Committee.

I-526 feud turns into personal potshots

Rail yard discussion takes a detour

BY DAVID WREN
dwren@postandcourier.com

The normally staid discussion of property acquisitions for a rail yard at the former Navy base in North Charleston took a combative turn Tuesday as state lawmakers used the opportunity to take potshots at area officials over an unrelated project — the completion of Interstate 526.

Saying he's afraid Charleston area politicians will use funding for I-526 as a way to hold up the rail project, state Sen. Hugh Leatherman — chairman of the Legislature's Joint Bond Review Committee — pushed a plan that would let Palmetto Railways proceed with the property acquisitions it needs without a normally required letter of approval from Charleston County.

The committee ultimately approved the land acquisitions and the waiver during an exchange in which unnamed Charleston area leaders were described as "characters" who are loud and litigious and whose ideas are "garbage."

Please see **I-526**, Page A7



Summey

Inside

HICKS: 526 at standstill, kind of like rest of Lowcountry. **A2**

PREP GIRLS GOLF

Lexington wins 5A state title; White Knoll's Jensen Castle low individual, 2B



USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Gamecocks' transfer Kaela Davis learns game from NBA father, 1B



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26 2016

\$1.00 VOL. 106TH, No. 257 STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/THETSTATENEWS TWITTER.COM/@THETSTATE

TODAY: MOSTLY SUNNY HI 72° LO 50° YESTERDAY: HI 75° LO 49° PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0" FORECAST, 10C

The State

SC's pension debt: \$40 billion?

■ Plan has been "grossly underfunded" for years, said an official of the libertarian Reason Foundation's Pension Integrity Project.

BY CASSIE COPE cope@thestate.com

South Carolina's unfunded pension debt could be nearly twice as large as estimated —

\$40 billion.

That debt has been estimated at \$20 billion. But that assumed a 7.5 percent return on the pension fund's investments.

If the state were to apply a more realistic market value rate

of return — 4 percent — to those investments, the retirement system's unfunded liabilities would grow to almost \$40 billion, said Anthony Randazzo, managing director of the libertarian Reason Foundation's Pension Integrity Project.

Randazzo told S.C. lawmakers Tuesday the pension fund has

been "grossly underfunded" for years and will need to be shored up with more money.

Where that money will come from — state workers or taxpayers — has yet to be decided.

Too little money going into the pension system has resulted in billions of unfunded liabilities. The \$20 billion estimate,

by consultants for the state, is the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay for the retirement benefits of state and local government workers, including teachers, and the amount it has promised to pay current employees and

SEE PENSION, 7A

AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW

Nichols needs a 'miracle'



Dwight Dimery's Nichols home is covered in mold caused by flooding from Hurricane Matthew. The Little Pee Dee River engulfed essentially the entire town. Most residents suffered flooding inside their homes.

Floodwaters left 235 of the town's 261 homes 'severely damaged' or

BY AVERY G. WILKS awilks@thestate.com

NICHOLS

The burgundy carpet inside Dwight Dimery's three-bedroom home in Nichols still oozes mucky water

strewn throughout the house, where floodwater recently reached as high as the countertops.

The mold left growing after Hurricane Matthew is strong enough to make your eyes water. And yet, the 58-year-old truck driver is here with a rake and a

pondering his next move.

Dimery hopes the Federal Emergency Management Agency will come through with its maximum grant — \$33,300 — though applicants historically get a fraction of that, if anything. But even that likely will not be enough to repair a ruined home with \$70,000 left on its mortgage

ONLINE THESTATE.COM: Video of the small, flood-ravaged S.C. town of Nichols

MORE INSIDE How you can help Nichols rebuild



SPORTS, 1C
**LOCALS
FUEL USC**



METRO, 3A
**Volunteers
plant trees
along SRT**

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 26, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

WALL STREET, LAWYERS DOMINATE CLINTON'S FUNDRAISING **PAGE 1B**

Man shot by sheriff's deputy

Authorities say
he pulled a knife

ANNA LEE
ALEE@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

A man was shot by a sheriff's deputy Tuesday after authorities say he pulled a knife during a pursuit that began at an addiction recovery center in Greenville.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Ryan Flood said deputies were called to The Turning Point of South Carolina, 24 Bruce Road, Tuesday afternoon in a search for a subject with active warrants.

When deputies arrived at the facility, Flood said they noticed a black male "immediately flee from their presence."

Flood said deputies ran the man's name through the National Crime Information Center and found he was wanted out of Jasper County. He said the man wasn't the subject deputies were originally looking for.

Deputies located the man who fled a short time later, but he jumped a fence and took off running through the woods, according to Flood.

A foot pursuit followed. As deputies closed in near the wood line next to Bruce Road, the man pulled out a knife "in a threatening manner and raised it up in an attack position," Flood said in a release Tuesday night.

He said deputies repeatedly and loudly told the man to drop the knife. The man instead advanced toward them, and one of the

See SHOOTING, Page 11A



Wince Williams, a Greenville County Schools bus driver, waits at the North Charleston Coliseum to be released back to Greenville. Greenville County bus drivers traveled to Charleston to bring residents evacuating Charleston to the Upstate in preparation for Hurricane Matthew. HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

\$1M spent on school buses for evacuation

About 300 were sent to North Charleston

TIM SMITH
TSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA - The operation that sent hundreds of Greenville County school buses to the North Charleston Coliseum to evacuate people from Hurricane Matthew but wound up only taking residents from a nursing

home cost the state almost \$1 million, according to estimates provided to The Greenville News by the state Department of Education. The total includes the cost of drivers and bus aides, fuel, meals and hotels for personnel from Greenville, Lexington and Richland school districts, as well as

the cost of an incident management team from the state Forestry Commission. The plan had been to send hundreds of buses to North Charleston for a one-day operation to cart as many as 7,500 of those who wanted to evacuate to Upstate shelters

See BUSES, Page 6A

"I think being overly prepared was the right decision and something we supported."

RYAN BROWN,
A SPOKESMAN FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Campaign signs a rare sight as election season nears end

ELIZABETH LAFLEUR
ELAFLEUR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

It's that time of year when we expect campaign signs to be almost as ubiquitous as the falling leaves, so where are they?

on Greenville County ballots are uncontested, which means the winners were essentially chosen during the primaries in June, barring any successful write-in campaigns. That makes the presiden-

tial campaign signs, research, like a recent study out of Columbia University, points to the lack of proven ability to drive votes. Steve Miller, an assistant political science professor at Clemson University, points to



INDIANS TOP CUBS IN GAME 1

SPORTS, B1



SPICES HELP STIR UP PORK RECIPE

FOOD & HEALTH, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, October 26, 2016



GoUpstate.com

75¢



GoUpstate



@GoUpstate

TODAY THU FRI

70°/48° 71°/53° 79°/51°

Complete forecast, B6

UPSTATE



Bedbug reports

The Spartanburg Housing Authority is handling several cases of bedbugs at Archibald Rutledge. Bedbug infestations have been reported in four of the 150 units in the high-rise within the past 60 days, according to housing authority officials. **C1**

Focus on the future

Parents and grandparents of students at High Point Academy in Spartanburg urged the school community to focus on the future Tuesday night. **C1**

NATION & WORLD



Trump's lifeline?

Suddenly armed with fresh political ammunition, Donald Trump and anxious Republicans across the nation seized on spiking health care costs Tuesday in a final-days effort to spark election momentum. **A3**

Suspect in violent rampage sought

Authorities have been hunting for nearly two days for an Oklahoma man they say posted live videos to social media while running from police during a violent rampage that included shooting two police officers, armed car thefts,

FIRST CITIZENS BANK

Bank's online access stymied

Technical issues reported with new digital platform

By Bob Montgomery
bob.montgomery@shj.com

First Citizens Bank on Tuesday was still trying to fix technical problems that have prevented many of its customers from logging onto their

online accounts since at least the weekend.

A spokeswoman for the Raleigh, N.C.-based bank said there have been "unprecedented call volumes" at the bank's call center from customers unable to access their accounts.

The problems began when the bank began to transition to its new First Citizens Digital Banking platform over the weekend,

spokeswoman Barbara Thompson said. The exact cause has not been identified.

"We communicated through our customers there would be outages," Thompson said. "We did experience some technical issues, some delays and inconsistent service. We're working around the clock to solve these issues."

Thompson said she didn't know how many customers

were affected.

First Citizens Bank has branches in 20 states, including 20 branches in South Carolina and six in the Spartanburg area.

Some customers said they couldn't access their accounts online since late last week, and they couldn't reach a customer service person to report the problem.

Thompson said the customer

SEE BANKS, A7

VETERANS SERVICES COMMISSION

Spartanburg veteran starts organization to help others



John Bryant, a retired U.S. Army major, is opening an office in Spartanburg to serve veterans. The Veteran Services Commission is located at 2040 S. Church St. Ext. and will offer information on state resources for veterans. ALEX HICKS JR./SPARTANBURG HERALD-JOURNAL

By Alyssa Mulliger
alyssa.mulliger@shj.com

Spartanburg veteran John Bryant knows firsthand

"Veterans have a need that's really not being addressed at this point," he said. "You talk to them and they're frustrated because they don't know what

supportive information and access to veterans and their families. The organization received its 501(c)(3) designation in July and is preparing

at 2040 S. Church St. Ext., is renovating the convenience store's adjoining storefront for the office space.

The organization plans

CHAMPIONSHIP CONTENDERS



**T.L. Hanna,
Powdersville,
lead area
volleyball teams
into postseason.
1B**

Independent Mail

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Candidates face off at forum

Debate focuses on state
of South Carolina's roads

KIRK BROWN

KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Five candidates running for three seats in the state House of Representatives sparred Tuesday over how to fix South Carolina's crumbling roads.

Rep. Jonathon Hill, a Republican from Townville, said he did not support a plan approved earlier this year that calls for using bonds to finance road repairs.

Online

Go to independentmail.com
for local, national campaign coverage

Inside

Carey drops out of
Anderson County Council race, **3A**

"Borrowing more money is not the right option," said Hill during a candidate forum at Wilson Cavalry Baptist

See FORUM, Page 7A



KIRK BROWN/
INDEPENDENT MAIL

Thirteen candidates running in contested races in Anderson County took part in a forum Tuesday night at Wilson Cavalry Baptist Church in Anderson. Stuart Sprague, left, served as the event's moderator.



Ashley Gravely and her 2-year-old daughter, Sophia, pet a horse named Boogie, who tries to see what's in the treat bucket during Anderson's National Night Out. Below, Anderson City firefighter Seth Coley talks to Jayveon Swilling inside of a fire truck.

CHILDREN FLOCK TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

FRANCES PARRISH

FRANCES.PARRISH@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Hundreds of children came dressed in their Halloween best as princesses, superheroes, firefighters and police officers at the annual National Night Out on Tuesday.

The event held at the Civic Center of Anderson gave children a chance to in-

threatening situation," said Anita Donlevy of the Anderson County Sheriff's



Photo gallery at
independentmail.com



County traffic deaths spike

50 fatalities in 2016; almost
twice as many as last year

NIKIE MAYO

NIKIE.MAYO@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

The number of people who have died on Anderson County roads in 2016 is nearly double what it was this time last year.

Data released Monday by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety show there have been 50 traffic fatalities in the county thus far this year. By comparison, 27 people died on Anderson County roads in the same period last year.

Included in those statistics is a spike in deaths of motorcyclists and moped riders, according to Anderson County Coroner's Office records.

The recent spike in traffic deaths is that it is not just a change from 2015 to 2016, but is a break in a general pattern. Between 2013 and 2015, Anderson County annually averaged 29 traffic deaths.

See DEATHS, Page 7A

Traffic Deaths

Anderson County traffic fatalities by
year through Oct. 23:

2016: 50
2015: 27
2014: 33
2013: 28

Source: South Carolina Department
of Public Safety

Food FUN Carnival Haunted House **Trinity-Byrnes** **Fun For All Ages**
HAUNTED HALLS
 \$6 per person | \$1 discount with a donated canned good | Saturday, Oct. 29th | 5pm - 10pm | 5001 Hoffmeyer Rd. | Darlington, SC | 843.395.9124 | trinitybyrnes.org

Morning News

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER
 Mostly sunny and beautiful.
 High 75, low 50.
 DETAILS 2A

www.sctnow.com The Voice of the Pee Dee 75 cents

Nichols woman relies on faith to weather the flood recovery

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
 Morning News
 jloyd@florencenews.com

NICHOLS — "Most people lost a house. I lost a home; the place where I raised my kids and built my life. Now it's gone and I'm too old to start over."

Patricia Coleman has lived in the Nichols community of Marion County for over 40 years, but floodwaters have led her and her husband to seek refuge in their local church fellowship hall for the past two weeks.

Floodwaters brought on by Hurricane Matthew destroyed their home.

"God was good to us and allowed us to get out when we did," she said. "The flood could have happened in the



Patricia Coleman has lived in the Nichols community of Marion County for over 40 years. She says faith has helped her through losing her home.

See NICHOLS, Page 3A

Business Recovery Center opening Friday in Florence

From staff reports

ATLANTA — The U.S. Small Business Administration announced Tuesday that a Business Recovery Center will open Friday in Florence County to help businesses damaged by Hurricane Matthew.

SBA representatives at the Business Recovery Centers can provide information about disaster loans, answer questions and help busi-

nesses in completing the SBA application.

Florence County's Business Recovery Center is in the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce at the intersection of Dargan and Evans streets in Florence.

The center will open at 11 a.m. Friday. Starting next week, the hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Friday.

15TH ANNUAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION GALA

Wukela says future is bright



BY MELISSA ROLLINS
 Morning News
 mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Florence City Council chambers were full Tuesday night as hundreds of people packed in for a discussion on building a pool for South Florence High School. In actuality, the audience was witnessing a spot-on performance by the South Florence Bruins Drama Club during the 15th annual School Foundation Gala at SiMT.

The evening's Distinguished Graduate was Florence Mayor Stephen J. Wukela. As a tribute to Wukela, students from his alma mater performed in the roles of the mayor and his fellow members of the city council.

Many of the performance's jokes were well received by members of the audience familiar with the mannerism of council members, including "George Jebbailly" referencing his Lebanese heritage and "Buddy Brand" being concerned about the potential cost of the pool project.

As Wukela took to the lectern, he thanked everyone for the honor of being recognized. He then took the opportunity to shine the light on others.

"Tonight's event might give

Florence Mayor Stephen Wukela talks about other successful South Florence High School graduates during his acceptance speech for the 2016 Distinguished Graduate Award at The School Foundation Gala.

See GALA, Page 3A

Domestic violence review teams attend two-day workshop

Committees analyze fatal cases, modify strategies, fatality review teams did not have domestic vio-

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County's News Leader Since 1893

50 CENTS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2016

WWW.HARTSVILLEMESSENGER.COM

scribble.com

House Speaker Lucas visits Nichols

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jloyd@florencenews.com

NICHOLS — Some parts of Nichols are still under water, and no businesses are open after massive flooding, spurred by

Hurricane Matthew, and devastated the small, rural Pee Dee town this month.

South Carolina House Speaker Jay Lucas toured the town Monday with Mayor Lawson Battle to see the destruction first-hand. Of the town's 260 homes, 236

either were completely destroyed or severely damaged in addition to nearly 300 vehicles and more than 20 businesses.

"It's shocking," Lucas said. "It's not every day that you see a town that's been laid to waste. I've never seen anything like this. It's

been 16 days, and some homes still have water in them."

Nichols has no water, no sewer, no police or fire protection right now.

As of Monday, Battle said the town is seeking aid from any agency that can offer it, and he

primarily is working to keep citizens from losing hope — especially the hundreds of people who remain in shelters and churches with no home to return to.

"Right now we're just trying to

See NICHOLS, Page 3A

Darlington County

Disaster assistance available

From Staff Reports

DARLINGTON, S.C. — The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved Darlington County for Individual Assistance, allowing residents who sustained losses to apply for aid in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.

Individual Assistance can include grants for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary homes, personal property losses, and rental assistance, as well as assist with medical and dental expenses associated with the storm.

Residents can register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 800-621-3362. Disaster assistance applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing should call 800-462-7585 (TTY); those who use Video Relay Service may call 800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Additionally, Darlington County has been declared eligible for low-interest, disaster assistance loans through U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Businesses, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters will be able to apply for loans to go towards buildings, contents, and vehicles beyond what insurance or other assistance may cover.

Further information on the loan application process can be found by

See FEMA, Page 3A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ghosts and goblins and other Halloween costumed children will converge on downtown Hartsville Thursday for the annual Treats on the Streets, sponsored by Main Street Hartsville.

Treats on the Streets comes howling into town

From Staff Reports



HARTSVILLE MESSENGER FILE PHOTO

A passel of witches swept through downtown Hartsville on bicycles instead of brooms during Treats on the Streets last year. The group was seen riding along the path of the trick-or-treaters.

Tomorrow is the annual Treats on the Streets. From pirates to penguins and from gladiators to ghosts, downtown Hartsville receives a crowd of unusual visitors every year for Main Street Hartsville's Treats on the Streets downtown trick-or-treating. The event is from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and is one of downtown's biggest events, bringing together not just children and families making their way among local shops, restaurants and other busi-

nesses, but also costume contests for children and dogs alike, sponsored by SPC Credit Union.

"Treats On the Streets is always a huge celebration in our downtown, quite possibly the biggest one in our downtown," said Suzy Moyd, executive director of Main Street Hartsville in a release. "We are so lucky to not only have SPC sponsor the Costume Contest and the Strut Your Mutt contest, but also the community support of

See TREATS, Page 3A



INDEX

122nd Year - 12 pages

Happenings	2A
Opinion	4A
News	5A
Sports	1B
Puzzles	3B
Classifieds	4B

hartsvillemessenger.com
2016 Copyright Hartsville Messenger

Robinson to test sirens today

From Staff Reports

The public alert notification sirens around the Robinson Nuclear Plant will be tested today, Oct. 26, between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

The 59 sirens within 10 miles of the Robinson Nuclear Plant will sound at least once during the test

This test is performed quarterly, in cooperation with emergency officials in Chesterfield, Darlington and Lee counties, who are responsible for sounding the sirens.

Hearing a siren does not mean to evacuate. In an emergency, sirens are sounded as a signal for residents to tune to a local radio or TV

DCSD seeks bus drivers

From Staff Reports

DARLINGTON — The Darlington County School District is currently seeking school bus drivers and will host a driver training class Nov. 14-16 at the Darlington County Institute of Technology. Drivers can

will be held Nov. 14-16 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Darlington County Institute of Technology, located at 160 Pinedale Drive in Darlington. The deadline to enroll for the class is Nov. 10.

In order to be eligible to become a school bus

the Sumter ITEM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

75 cents



Teacher turnover concerns board

District strives to address shortage with recruitment, retention effort

BY BRUCE MILLS
bruce@theitem.com

Nearly every public school district in the state is having challenges filling classrooms with certified teachers, as many younger teachers are leaving the field and the pipeline of graduates entering the schools is not big enough, according to a presentation by district staff at the Sumter School Board of Trustees meeting Monday night.

According to the annual Supply and Demand Survey for the state's school districts conducted by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement, 4,074.3 certified teachers didn't return to their positions for the 2015-16 school year. That is approximately a 570 teacher increase from 2012-13. In its calculations, CERRA reports positions in full-time equivalents based on 1.0 for full-time teachers and fractions for part-time positions. Of the

4,074.3 teachers who didn't return to the classroom this year in the state, only about 1,060 — or 26 percent — were retirees.

The study revealed 37 percent of teachers in South Carolina who taught five years or fewer left the classroom for other careers at the end of the 2016 school year. And 14.2 percent of the exiting teachers taught one year or less.

SEE TEACH, PAGE A5

Mayoral candidates debate the issues



Candidates for Mayor, from left, William "Dutch" Holland, Charlie Jones and incumbent Mayor Joe McElveen debate at Sumter High School on Tuesday night.

Transparency, strategic planning, fairness held up as issues of concern by challengers

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

The three candidates for mayor of Sumter in the Nov. 8 election met on the stage of the Sumter High School auditorium Tuesday night, and each put forth his vision for Sumter during a debate sponsored by the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce, the Sumter Board of Realtors and the Building Industry Association of Central South Carolina.

Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Lefford Fite posed the questions to the candidates, many of which came from students at

"Our role is to be a shameless cheerleader for the City of Sumter. I want to show how a diverse community like Sumter can work together. I want the entire county to be uplifted."

MAYOR JOE MCELVEEN

Describing how he sees the role of mayor

Maywood Middle School. William "Dutch" Holland introduced himself as a retired military officer who chose to live in Sumter. He frequently touted his leadership skills learned during his 34-year military career.

He said he wanted to use his leadership training and experience to help Sumter continue to excel.

Holland said he wanted to see more transparent and responsible spending by city government.

"We have to have a strategic plan and follow up," he said.

Charlie Jones said his background is in the music industry as a songwriter and publisher.

He said his goal was to get fair treatment for everybody in Sumter.

"My goal is to see the black community come up to the same level as the white community," he said. "The black community feels left behind, and we are not going to bring us up when all the resources are going to other places."

SEE DEBATE, PAGE A5

Delegation will try, try again in 2017

Area lawmakers expect familiar issues to dominate next session

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

The Sumter County delegation to the General Assembly of South Carolina expects at least two of the major issues considered in 2016 to return to the Statehouse when they meet in January.

That's the No. 1 takeaway from the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast, held Tuesday morning at the Central Carolina Technical College Health Sciences Center, 133 S. Main St. State Sens. Kevin Johnson and Thomas McElveen, as well as Reps.

David Weeks, Robert "Bobby" Ridgeway, Joe Neal, Murrell Smith and Grady Brown spoke at the annual event.

Members of the delegation said finding a way to fund maintenance for the state's highways and for improving public education are still in need of long-term solutions.

"We made a little progress last year, but in the Senate, most of the progress came in the final weeks of the session," Johnson said.

"I think this is the year we are probably going to get a roads bill — of course, I said that last year — we had some folks who were afraid of making some tough decisions in an election year," Johnson said. "I hope we can get it done this year."

Johnson said he also expected health care, pension reform and ethics to come up in the session.

SEE BREAKFAST, PAGE A4

Vice president to campaign in city Nov. 1

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The South Carolina Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign announced Monday that Vice President Joe Biden will be headlining two Get Out the Vote events in South Carolina on Nov. 1, in Sumter and Rock Hill.

Biden will be joined by U.S.



County OKs money for water line extension, penny project

--

Camlin Moore

Cell: [803-206-8236](tel:803-206-8236)

Office: [803-734-8044](tel:803-734-8044)