

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/25/2016 8:25:56 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages - Friday, March 25, 2016

SC Front Pages – Friday, March 25, 2016

The Post and Courier

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

Friday, March 25, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

School board talks 'criminal implications' of audit

Board to hire outside attorney to review non-disparagement clause of severance agreements

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

The Charleston County School Board voted Thursday to hire an outside attorney to review the terms of employee severance agreements as well as possible "criminal implications" stemming from a recent forensic audit of payroll and benefits.

The meeting took place almost entirely in executive session, closed to the public, with some board members calling in via phone. The board called for the special meeting late Wednesday afternoon.

According to the agenda, the board planned to discuss retaining counsel to review the extent to which the non-disparagement clause in a severance agreement prohibits the board or its agents from discussing facts or the findings of a professionally executed audit, though they may reflect negatively on the other party to the agreement.

The school board included a non-disparagement clause in its severance agreements with former Chief Academic Officer Lisa Herring as well as former Superintendent Nancy McGinley, according to a district spokesman. Board Chair Cindy Bohm Coats said the district had entered "multiple" agreements of this nature with former employees from 2012 to 2015 and that the district had "issues."

Please see **BOARD**, Page A7

PC Poll
Should there be non-disparagement clauses in contracts for public officials? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Some James Islanders resist project on Folly Road

Others say The Lively may not be bad for area

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

Some mornings, Liz Singleton has trouble starting her day, with traffic so heavy outside her James Island home that it makes it difficult to cross the street to pick up her newspaper.

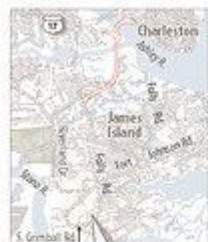
Inside
Brian Hicks: Paying through the nose for something right in front of us. A2

apartment complex is approved.

"We should not be encouraging development. Folly Road is not capable of handling that much traffic," said Singleton, who is president of the Greater Grinnell Home Owners Association.

Singleton and other islanders are worried about plans for a 10-acre residential and commercial development called The Lively on Folly Road at South Grinnell Road. Just across Folly, a large-scale apartment complex called Broadstone Seaside recently opened its doors.

Please see **LIVELY**, Page A6



Lively project

A developer wants Charleston County to approve "The Lively" on 10 acres at Folly and South Grinnell roads. The project would include up to 350 apartments, 20,000 square feet of artist studios and a 30,000 square-foot market.

Inside

SPORTS

Top-seeded USC women embrace elements ahead of NCAA Tournament game. C1

BUSINESS

ArborGen workers take confidential settlement over \$53 million verdict. B1

LOCAL

Clemson-Cuba partnership could see study, preservation of buildings, culture. A4



A terrapin turtle is held by a volunteer as it prepares to be measured, weighed and examined during a S.C. Department of Natural Resources survey and tracking project Monday.

The mysterious diamondback

DNR studying terrapin, a species thought to be in long-term decline and vital to estuary health

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

A pregnant turtle clawed her way out of the Ashley River, headed to her nesting site. The cover was gone, the terrain was different. But she climbed on until she was found halfway up the outside staircase of a newly built office off Leeds Avenue.

This is the intrepid diamondback terrapin, the other turtle of the Lowcountry coast, the one whose disappearance might mean the death of the salt marsh.

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources is in the midst of the second round of a multiyear study, capturing terrapins along the lower Ashley River and tagging them to try to get a read on the population and its flux, tracking them by telemetry to see just where they go. It potentially could lead to exclusion devices similar to those used on shrimp boats.

PC Gallery
For more photos from the DNR survey, go to postandcourier.com/gallery.

Like its far more renowned sea turtle cousin, the saltwater terrapin is a species thought to be in long-term decline. The only estuarine turtle in North America, it has a pivotal role in the estuary: it eats marsh periwinkle snails. The snails destroy marsh grass, turning the marsh into mud flats.

That makes the turtle an alpha predator of the marsh, one of those species the ecosystem's health depends on. The chief reasons for its decline are thought to

Please see **TERRAPIN**, Page A6

Firefighters awarded unpaid OT

Mayor to ask council to also pay those who didn't join lawsuit

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

The city of Charleston has settled a lawsuit to pay firefighters overtime back pay, and the mayor wants to add another \$200,000 for those who didn't join the suit.

A judge signed the order Wednesday on behalf of about 200 firefighters who sued the city for unpaid hours. Mayor John Tecklenburg issued a memorandum to the Fire Department the same day saying he planned to ask City Council to approve back pay for another 100 or so firefighters who did not join the lawsuit.

Tecklenburg said many firefighters didn't join the suit for fear of retaliation.

The firefighters who sued will get \$522,333.33. That would be around \$2,600 each if it were divided equally, although the actual amount will be determined by the number of overtime hours each firefighter worked, Leach said.

The six firefighters who filed the suit before the others joined will each get an additional \$3,500 "for the risks they have taken as lead plaintiffs."

The firefighters' attorneys will get an additional \$271,666.67.

The total amount the city will pay to settle the lawsuit is \$815,000. The money will come from the general budget as a result of the city spending less than budgeted in 2015, city spokesman Jack O'Toole said.

Tecklenburg's recommendation to pay firefighters who did not join the suit will have to be voted on by council. His memorandum says Fire

Please see **FIREFIGHTERS**, Page A6

PC Poll

Should the firefighters who did not join the lawsuit be approved for overtime back pay? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Officials admit warning signs missed in Belgium

BY JOHN THOR DAHLBURG
AND ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Belgium's prime minister refused to accept the resignations of his justice and interior ministers Thursday despite increasing evidence of intelligence and law enforcement failures to prevent this week's suicide bombings by Islamic militants.

With at least one attacker at large and unknown accomplices, police detained six people in raids around the Belgian capital Thursday night. In a Paris suburb, a man suspected of plotting an

imminent attack was also detained Thursday, but the interior minister reported no apparent link with the Brussels airport and subway bombings or the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris. Authorities lowered Belgium's terror threat level by one notch, although they said the situation remained grave and another attack is "likely and possible." Belgium had been on its highest alert ever since Tuesday's bombings in the Brussels airport and subway that killed 31 people and wounded 270.

Please see **BEIGIUM**, Page A12



Police stand guard as people pay tribute to victims of this week's terrorist attacks during a moment of silence Thursday at Place de la Bourse, in Brussels.



Chance of storm.
High 76, Low 61.
Complete 5-day
forecast. B10

Edge: D9 Crosswords: B8 D7 Movies: B7
Business: B1 Bear Abby: B7 Obituaries: B4
Classified: D1 Editorial: A16 Sports: C1
Comics: B8-9 Local: A2 Television: B6

Charleston Deals Today
Bishop England High School: \$100 for the whole week of spring break sports camp (valued at \$180). See A2

USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Five things to know about South Dakota



USC seniors Khadijah Sessions, Sarah Imovbloh, Tiffany Mitchell and Tina Roy celebrate their NCAA win Sunday. South Carolina will play Syracuse in the Sweet 16 on Friday in Sioux Falls, S.D.

With the South Carolina women playing in an NCAA Regional in Sioux Falls, S.D., this weekend, here are five things you should know about The Mount Rushmore State:

1. BIG HEADS

The four heads on Mount Rushmore (Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt) are each 60 feet high. Or try the Crazy Horse Memorial, whose head is 87.5 feet.

2. COYOTES AND JACKRABBITS

The state's flagship university is the South Dakota Coyotes. They compete in Division I in everything except football. South Dakota State

(the Jackrabbits) is the other big institution.

3. HOGS

Sturgis, S.D., is the home of a giant annual motorcycle rally that has been held since 1938. World Championship Wrestling holds an event there. Jay Leno has been known to participate.

4. A BOY NAMED SUE

The largest Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton ever unearthed,

MORE INSIDE

How USC can stop Syracuse's press. 18

ONLINE

GoGamecocks.com: Video: Dawn Staley previews the game

a 65 million-year-old specimen named "Sue" after its finder, came from Faith, S.D.

5. CORN FED

The Corn Palace is a multi-purpose arena/facility located in Mitchell, S.D. The murals and designs covering the building are made from corn and other grains.

FRIDAY MARCH 25 2016

\$1.00

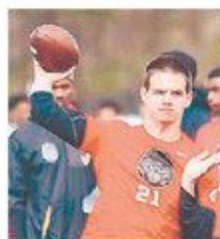
VOL. 126TH, No. 37
STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COM

[FACEBOOK.COM/THESTATENEWS](https://facebook.com/thestatenews)
[TWITTER.COM/THESTATE](https://twitter.com/thestate)



TODAY: MOSTLY CLOUDY. STORMS POSSIBLE HI 76 LO 55
YESTERDAY: HI 82 LO 50 PRECIP. (as of 5 pm) 0.00"
FORECAST, 8C

The State



USC RECRUITING

JAKE'S A GAMECOCK

Gamecocks get a commitment from Jake Bentley, one of the nation's best prep quarterbacks, 1B

LEXINGTON'S RAWL FARM

Farming operation faces \$1 million fine

Court says up to 350 illegal immigrants were used as workers there

BY JOHN MONK AND TIM FLACH
jmonk@thestate.com,
tflach@thestate.com

A federal judge fined a major Lexington County farm operation \$1 million on Thursday for

unlawfully using between 300 and 350 illegal immigrants as workers, according to filings in U.S. District Court in Columbia.

"I can't put a corporation in jail - all I can do is impose a fine or probation," U.S. Judge Joseph Anderson Jr. said Thursday

during a 40-minute hearing at the federal courthouse in Columbia.

The \$1 million criminal misdemeanor fine was levied against HW Group, LLC, a closely held family firm that serves as the umbrella group for

five corporate entities, including Walter P. Rawl & Sons, a well-known, large vegetable producer. Rawl grows, sells and delivers a wide variety of fresh produce, not only in South Carolina

SEE RAWL FARM, 9A



COLUMBIA SEX SHOP

Explicit material back on shelves at Taboo

BY CLIF LEBLANC
clleblanc@thestate.com

Taboo the Couples Superstore has put sexually explicit material back on its shelves as it launches a new challenge to Columbia's zoning decisions, the store's owner and lawyer said.

"Everything we purged is back out," Jeff White told The State newspaper. White said he has filed an administrative appeal with city officials, which his lawyer says under state law gives him "a stay" to remain

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK
The Greenville News

OFFICER ALLEN JACOBS 1987-2016

FALLEN HERO LAID TO REST

Greenville community paid its respects; a widow mourned; and two young boys said goodbye to a father their unborn sister will never know



Meghan Jacobs, the wife of Greenville Police Officer Allen Jacobs, says farewell to her husband at a graveside service in Travelers Rest. HEIDI HEILBRUN/STAFF

ANNA LEE ZLEE@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

The sun was still rising as police officers began to arrive at Furman University on Thursday for the funeral of a young officer killed last week in the line of duty. ■ Clad in dark dress uniforms, they marched steadily into Timmons Arena, joining the estimated 4,000 people who came to honor Officer Allen Jacobs. ■ Jacobs, 28, was shot and killed March 18 while chasing a fleeing suspect in Nicholtown — the first Greenville city police officer to die in the line of duty in two decades. ■ “That moment seemed like all the air got sucked out,” the Rev. Thomas King said. “Everything seemed to be put on hold.”

NATIONAL

Shakespeare's skull parted from grave, and sweet sorrow it is not. 7A



BUSINESS

To be or not to be serving food? Fillin' Station says no longer to be. 9B



FRIDAY MARCH 25 2016

75c

VOLUME 46, No. 85
STAY CONNECTED ISLANDPACKET.COMFACEBOOK.COM/ISLANDPACKET
TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTONChance of storms
72°/60° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

OKATIE GAS STATION

Tainted fuel leaves vehicles sputtering

Mechanics said drivers pumped gas contaminated with diesel

Station managers declined to comment

Drivers react on social media

BY CAITLIN TURNER
cturner@islandpacket.com

An undetermined number of drivers say their cars broke down after buying gasoline at

an Okatie station that may have been contaminated with diesel fuel.

The number of drivers whose cars were damaged is unknown because the managers at the Enmark gas station at 101 Com-

merce Place East declined to comment Thursday.

Calls from The Island Packet and The Beaufort Gazette to Enmark's Savannah-based corporate offices also went unanswered.

At least nine motorists reached out on Facebook this week to ask whether others had experienced problems with their vehicles after fueling up at the station. They commented on the Bluffton Okatie Buy/Sell Page.

"By any chance, is somebody else's car broken down after fueling gas at Enmarks at Okatie?" one commenter asked.

The responses poured in, with some saying they had experienced similar problems and had to take their cars to mechanics for repairs.

"I have a brand-new Jeep and stopped yesterday on my way to Beaufort and put in gas this morning," another commenter said. "My car sputtered and sputtered."

Nick Hanson of Bluffton said he caught the problem in time on Monday.

"I'm a mechanic, so basically (all) I had to do was clean the fuel system, change a fuel filter and clean out the fuel tank," he told the newspapers Thursday. "I caught it before it got bad."

For those who are not

SEE FUEL, 9A

SPORTS

SHARKS BITE ON NEW COACHES

May River High picks coaches for boys basketball, wrestling and baseball, two of them from rival Bluffton High. 1B



LOCAL

THIEVES STEAL OUR GOOD NAME

Just what is it about the Hilton Head name that makes areas that are far, far away from the island want to appropriate it? 3A



NATION

COMEDIAN, ACTOR DIES

Garry Shandling, 66, pioneered a pretend brand of self-focused docudrama with "The Larry Sanders Show." 4A



Laurance Davis stands near a tree dedicated to his late grandson. He was tending it along the Spanish Moss Trail when he was mugged last August. Later, his wife found a wallet left at the spot with a dollar bill and messages of consolation.

SPANISH MOSS TRAIL

For trail robbery victim, love disarms a drawn gun

Lady's Island resident Laurance

grandson, Brian Davis Bundy,

den away.

But Laurance always brings it back out.

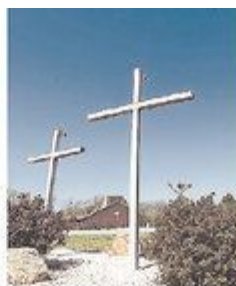
"He has to keep it in mind," said Sarah, who has been married to Laurance for more than 67 years.

To repay the stranger's gesture, Laurance decided recently to ask people to donate to the Spanish Moss Trail. The path now stretches from Port Royal to near Marina Corps Air Sta-



USC TO FACE PRESSURE FROM SYRACUSE

SPORTS, B1



EASTER AND THE DISCOVERY OF HOPE

FAITH & FAMILY, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, March 25, 2016



GoUpstate.com

75¢



GoUpstate



@GoUpstate

TODAY SAT SUN

76°/49° 71°/51° 68°/55°

Complete forecast, B10

SPORTS



Villanova rolls past Miami

Ryan Arcidiacono and Kris Jenkins each scored 21 points, and No. 2 seed Villanova never trailed in routing third-seeded Miami 92-69 Thursday night in the South Region semifinal of the NCAA Tournament. **B1**

UPSTATE

Mobile hot spot locations sought

A group working to bring high-speed Internet to rural parts of Spartanburg County is looking at locations where mobile hot spots can be established for students to use after school. **C1**

City looks at how to use grants

The city of Spartanburg has received nearly \$770,000 in grant funds to provide low- and moderate-income residents with affordable housing, workforce development and community services. **C1**

Benefit softball tournament set

The family of a Landrum High School student athlete who died in a crash last year is hosting a softball tournament in his memory this weekend. **C3**

NATION/WORLD

Comic, actor
Garry Shandling dies

TRANSGENDER RESTROOMS

Businesses push back against law

By Gary D. Robertson
and Emery P. Dalesio
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Major corporations took stands Thursday against a new North Carolina law that bans anti-discrimination measures based on sexual orientation and gender identity and requires transgender people to use public bathrooms that match their birth certificates.

American Airlines, which operates its second-largest hub in Charlotte; the biotech

company Biogen, which manufactures pharmaceuticals in Research Triangle Park; and payments processor PayPal, which last week announced plans to hire 400 people in Charlotte, were among the corporations condemning the new law.

"We believe no individual should be discriminated against because of gender identity or sexual orientation," American Airlines spokeswoman Katie Cody said. "Laws that allow

SEE LAW, A7



Rep. Paul Stam, R-Wake, speaks on the House floor as North Carolina lawmakers gather for a special session Wednesday in Raleigh, N.C. GERRY BROOME/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE, SPARTANBURG!'

Teams kick up their heels at fundraiser



The Meeting Street Academy dancers perform to Beyoncé's "Move Your Body" during "So You Think You Can Dance, Spartanburg!" at the Chapman Cultural Center Thursday night. JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHJ.COM

By Chris Lavender | chris.lavender@shj.com

Nine dance teams put on a show for a worthy cause at the Chapman Cultural Center Thursday night.

Ballet Spartanburg organizes fundraiser at Methodist College, Spar-



the Sumter ITEM

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

75 cents

INSIDE

Going to pot

Some veterans using marijuana to cope with PTSD symptoms A6

Century-old slate tiles removed from St. Anne's



A Square-It-Up Roofing employee uses a hammer to pound in exposed nails on a steeple at St. Anne Catholic Church on Monday. The crew is replacing the slate tiles with typical asphalt shingles for the entire roof. The slate tiles had been on the edifice's twin steeples for 106 years.

RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Suspect denied bond

Man charged in 2004 club shooting

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS

adrienne@theitem.com

Third Judicial District Circuit Judge Jeffrey Young denied bond for Muttuquinn Abdullah, the 43-year-old Columbia man facing a murder charge, among several others, for a fatal shooting at Club Lion Pitt in 2004.

Prosecutors claim Abdullah, who was a bouncer at the club at the time of the shooting, fired a .45 caliber handgun outside of the establishment striking a 26-year-old man in the head and another man in the leg. The 26-year-old victim, David Way, died of his injury while the other victim, Marrell McBride, then 21, survived.

Abdullah's attorney, Tim W. Murphy, requested that his client be set a reasonable bond so that he could be kept under house arrest at the residence of his aunt and uncle in Columbia.

Murphy said he does not consider his client a flight risk because he would remain under federal supervision if he were released.

Referencing a witness account included in law enforcement reports of the 2004 shooting, the defense attorney said Abdullah's intention was not malicious, and his client was concerned that someone else at the club had a weapon and would shoot someone.

Third Judicial Circuit Solicitor Ernest "Chip" Finney III told the judge that Abdullah signed an agreement stating that he is not eligible to carry a firearm before he was released from prison in January 2000.

The solicitor argued against Murphy's comment that Abdullah was concerned for others when he fired the gun.

He fired willy-nilly into a crowd of about 150 people at least seven times, Finney said.

The victims were not involved in an altercation at the club, he said.

Finney said a bullet found in Abdullah's pocket after the club shooting matched the bullets in the handgun.

SEE BOND, PAGE A7

Tractor-trailer driver cited in Wednesday afternoon wreck

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

The driver of the tractor-trailer truck involved in the wreck at North Lafayette and

Castro Vincentes, was taken to a Columbia-area hospital where she remains in critical condition. Her condition is said to be improving, according to McGirt.

City color-codes hydrants by capacity

BY RICK CARPENTER
rick@theitem.com

Residents may wonder why Sumter city officials color code fire hydrants.

On Tuesday, Sumter Water and Sewer Division employee Bobby Powell painted green

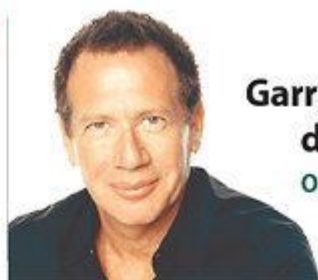


Bobby Powell, an employee with Sumter Water and Sewer Division, paints a fire hydrant green to match with a color code for



COMING SUNDAY

You voted and now
it's time to view
the results



**Garry Shandling
dies at 66**
Obituaries, 4A

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 98, NO. 7

 indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 24 PAGES

FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Court: Domestic violence law unfair to homosexual couples

By MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A law that perhaps unintentionally failed to protect domestic violence victims in same-sex relationships appears to be unconstitutional, and now South

Carolina's high court is trying to decide what to do.

The court was asked Wednesday to weigh in after a woman tried to get a protective order against her former fiancée, also a woman, and was denied. The state's domestic violence law defines "household mem-

bers" as a spouse, former spouse, people with a child in common, or specifically men and women who are or have lived together — but not unmarried same-sex couples.

The issue has come up in at least one other state since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last sum-

mer legalizing gay marriage nationwide. Earlier this month, the Ohio Supreme Court adopted the use of gender-neutral references in family court cases, a ruling that covers divorce, child support and domestic

See UNFAIR, page 4A

■ A WEEK LATER

Hope remains

Search continues
for man missing
on Abbeville lake

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

More than a week after a man disappeared while fishing on Richard B. Russell Lake, law enforcement has found only a few signs of his whereabouts and his sister is reaching out for help.

Just after midnight March 13, Mitchell Gibson was seen fishing on the Richard B. Russell Dam. He was expected to be at the Beer Garden Landing at 6 a.m., but when he didn't show, someone reported him missing and the S.C. Department of Natural Resources began searching.

With about 10 DNR boats searching, along with help from Abbeville and Anderson counties and a helicopter from the Georgia DNR, search parties scoured the nearly 10,000 square acres of surface water and were able to find a few items, Lt. Ron Talbert with the DNR said. A coat and cellphone were found together, along with some debris, including a life jacket and a bucket, he said.

"We haven't found any indication of the boat," he said. "On Thursday, we moved into a recovery mode, searching in the mornings and evenings."

When boats equipped with sonar detected a sunken boat at the bottom of the lake, divers were able to determine it was from an older wreck, he said.

"We are going to keep searching indefinitely," he said.

Kelly Johnson, Gibson's sister, said she's been reaching out on social media to find anyone who might have information about her brother's last known sighting.

"We are not any closer to finding out where Mitchell is," she said in a post on Facebook and a message to the Index-Journal. "We haven't found any new debris since Sunday ... we haven't found an oil slick or gas slick, or even signs of where a boat could have been in an accident."

Anyone who has seen a green, 24-foot SeaArk boat on Richard B. Russell Lake or anyone who has any information about Gibson can call the regional DNR office at 864-654-1671.



**MITCHELL
GIBSON**

Uptown Live



DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ | INDEX-JOURNAL

The Jake Bartley Band capped off the first Uptown Live concert of the season, Springfest, Thursday night. The concert featured music from Bad Weather States, Laura Beth Brooks, Keller Ridgeway and Ashby Stokes and Steven Galloway and Antonio Edwards. The concerts begin at 5:30 p.m., with headlining bands starting at 6:30 p.m. The next concert will be April 7, featuring the Anna Leigh band, with food and drinks provided by local caterers and restaurants.

Empowering students for their next step

AUTO RACING CHALLENGE

Play each week for a chance
to win weekly national prizes!

Go online to
SCNOW.COM/RACE
To sign up & begin playing today!

Clayton
homes
of Florence
843-664-8400
E. Palmetto St. Florence, SC
claytonhomesofflorence.com

Morning News

FRIDAY MARCH 25, 2016

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**
Mostly cloudy with
spotty showers.
High 81, low 56.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Timmonsville

Interim superintendent in place

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

TIMMONSVILLE — The interim superintendent of Florence School District Four told the district's board of trustees Thursday night that she wants to set goals to help every child be successful.

Zona Jefferson, the interim superintendent, told everyone in attendance at the board meeting that she looks forward to getting

to know them.

"It is an honor to be part of the Florence Four team," Jefferson said. "As a word of invitation, I very much have an open-door policy. I would like to hear from you. I am certainly delighted to have the opportunity to create a vision, set some goals, reach those goals and move forward so that every child, I mean every child, has every opportunity to be successful. That is my promise to you."

Jefferson was named to the interim post earlier this month after the South Carolina Department of Education declared two of Timmonsville's schools to be in a state of emergency and the trustees removed Andre Boyd as superintendent.

Board members received an update Thursday from the Department of Education, including four recommendations to improve student improvement in the district.

The recommendations are creating a professional learning community; establishing, monitoring and evaluating a literacy-rich environment; revising the vision and mission of the district to focus on high expectations; and student engagement.

The Department of Education, specifically the Office of School Transformation, will continue to have an ongoing relationship with the district. Through parent/community meetings, the

department has sought to clarify that even though two of the district's three schools were put in a state of emergency at the beginning of March, the relationship between the two entities will be a collaborative one.

The department has no plans to close the district or engage in a complete takeover like what happened in the Allendale School District in years past.

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 5A

Florence City leaders remember Councilman Ed Robinson

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Former and current Florence leaders remember Edward "Ed" Robinson as one of the most passionate officials the city has ever seen.



Robinson

Robinson, the longest-serving member of the Florence City Council, died Wednesday. He represented the city's 2nd District.

Some of those remembering him Thursday said Robinson often used animated and abrasive tactics to make his points known, but after the cameras went off he was a humble advocate for the downtrodden.

The city released a statement about Robinson's service to the community throughout his 26-year career in public life.

"Councilman Robinson was a fixture in our city and was known as a strong advocate and a dedicated representative of the district and the people he served," the statement read. "He was known as a person with deep reverence for those who felt disenfranchised, with much of his work focused on finding a way out for those individuals impacted by institutionalized poverty. Outside of his public image, Councilman Robinson will be remembered for his spirit of generosity to those in need."

Former Florence Mayor Frank Willis served on the council with Robinson for more than 12 years. He said Robinson was often ahead of the curve on issues facing the city and

BIGGEST LOSER



PHOTO BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

Winner Eric Lee thanks his trainer, Steve Murphy.

Lee, McLeod crowned winners

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com



FLORENCE — After ten weeks of sweat, hard work and dedication, Eric Lee and Mary McLeod were crowned the winners of the 2016 United Way of Florence County's Biggest Loser competition.

Lee won for most pounds lost and McLeod won for most inches lost. The winners were recognized in a Thursday evening ceremony held at the Carolinian,

Camlin Moore

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

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