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The Post and Courier

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Friday, May 20, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Suspect to face 2 more counts of murder

Unborn twins and their mother among victims in Ravenel shooting

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON
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Alexis Mungin was just beginning her third trimester with twins when she was fatally shot in the chest by her sister's boyfriend Tuesday in the living room of a Ravenel mobile home, authorities said.

Their lives, she added, depended on the life of their mother. The twins could have survived outside womb with a lot of medical support — an important distinction needed to charge suspect Kenneth Ancrum, 23, with two additional counts of murder in their deaths.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office announced Thursday that Ancrum would face the additional charges in the



Ancrum

Armani Mungin, 8. He also faces a count of using a firearm in a violent crime, as well as charges of kidnapping and attempted murder in the shooting of his girlfriend, Quwanza Mungin, 27, who survived the

shooting. She remains hospitalized. Ancrum is being held at the Charleston County jail.

'Too late to save' twins

The coroner said autopsies were performed on Alexis Mungin's unborn twins to make sure they didn't die from any other medical issues. Their cause of death was prematurity, Wooten said.

Their manner of death has yet to be decided and will depend on the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office, she said.

Please see SHOOTING, Page A6



Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten said Thursday that the deaths of two unborn twins were a result of their mother being fatally shot earlier this week.

No changes planned for park after drowning

Swimming instructor, officials stress need for water-safety training



Duffy McLemore of Ladson, 3, drowned Saturday in a pond near the Spray Play area at James Island County Park.

BY BO PETERSEN
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They get in the pool and they're so afraid they cling to the wall, not letting their whole bodies become submerged. That's what it's like when children who have never

Inside

Water safety tips. A7

been in the water before turn out for Shannon O'Brien's first class. "I train my staff, you never take your eyes off these children," said

the director of Lowcountry Aquatic Project Swimming, a Charleston County school-based initiative to teach water safety to children with little experience.

The pond where a 3-year-old drowned Saturday at James Island County Park was close to the Spray

Play sprinkler fountain where he had been playing. But the fountain area is walled and fenced. The pond pier is down an access drive from it and the picnic area where his mother thought he was headed.

Please see SAFETY, Page A7

Abortion ban 'scary,' obstetrics doctor says

Fears women may be forced to carry babies who likely will die

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
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The director of high risk obstetrics at the Medical University of South Carolina called a proposed 20-week abortion ban "confusing," "scary" and "a big step backwards" for patients.

"I've reviewed this with my colleagues here and everyone here is really terrified," said Dr. Scott Sullivan, a maternal-fetal specialist. "I've been practicing (obstetrics) for 20 years, and I have no idea how to stay within the confines of this law."

On Tuesday, the General Assembly passed a bill that would ban abortions in South Carolina after 19 weeks. It would not make exceptions for victims of rape or incest.

The proposal, still waiting for Gov. Nikki Haley's signature, would allow a pregnant woman to undergo an abortion after 19 weeks if her life is in jeopardy or if a physician determines the baby would not survive outside the womb.

"I'm really worried about the woman who comes in with a birth defect or a genetic defect that is fatal 99.9 percent of the time," Sullivan said. "According to the law, we can't help her. ... It's very, very confusing. It has penalties that would send physicians to jail."

If passed, the bill will force patients to undergo more testing during earlier stages of pregnancy when results are less reliable, he said.

A doctor who performs an illegal abortion under the bill would face up

Please see ABORTION, Page A8

Lack of public potties leads to disasters south of Broad

Some resort to using condos' foyer, grounds

BY DIANE KNICH
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The management of an upscale condominium building at the tip of Charleston's historic district says a man defecating in its foyer proves how badly public restrooms are needed south of Broad Street.

The Fort Sumter House, a seven-story building at White Point Garden, looks like a hotel, so tourists often dash toward it seeking relief. They enter the building, then grab and shake the handle of the locked lobby door. When it doesn't open, some become panic-stricken.



Video

To see surveillance footage from the Fort Sumter House, go to postandcourier.com/videos.

There currently are no public restrooms south of Broad, something visitors have groused about for years. But many residents of the Charleston Neighborhood Association have said they don't want the health and safety problems that public bathrooms will bring to their neighborhood.

Chris Weiner, Fort Sumter House's facilities manager, said his building is ground zero for the inevitable

Please see RESTROOMS, Page A7

Inside



WORLD

Terrorism suspected in crash of Egyptian plane. A10

SPORTS

RiverDogs first baseman Connor Spencer goes from Carnegie Hall to Riley Park. C1

BUSINESS

A developer is proposing to invest up to \$1 billion in Charleston's Laurel Island. B1

House OKs Confederate flag ban at VA cemeteries

Republicans in S.C. delegation oppose plan

BY EMMA DUMAINE
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WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives voted to bar the Confederate flag from being flown at cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs in the latest movement against displaying the rebel banner at federal sites.

Thursday's vote was the first of its kind to be allowed to proceed on the House floor since the June 2015 racially charged shooting of nine black parishioners at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

Eighty-four Republicans joined with nearly all of the Democrats



Poll

Should Confederate flags be flown at cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

in the 260-164 vote in favor of the amendment. All six of the Republicans in the South Carolina delegation voted against it.

It is also unlikely to be the last time that Democrats will try to force their GOP colleagues to take a stance on

Please see FLAG, Page A8



Chance of storms. High 81. Low 69. Complete 5-day forecast. B10

Bridge B9
Business B7
Classifieds B1
Comics B8-9
Local A2
Crossovers B8-D10
Dear Abby B7
Editorials A12
Local A2
Movies B7
Obituaries B4
Sports C1
Television B6

Charleston Deals today

DocDoor Garage Door Services: 575 for a garage-door conditioning package. See A2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

A new job for Steve Spurrier?
Former USC coach not interested, 1B



USC BASEBALL

Gamecocks top Alabama to open final SEC series of season, 1B

FRIDAY MAY 20 2016

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STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COMFACEBOOK.COM/THETATENEWS
TWITTER.COM/THETATETODAY: CLOUDY, CHANCE OF RAIN HI 69° LO 62°
YESTERDAY: HI 69° LO 64° PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.57"
FORECAST, DC

The State

EXCLUSIVE

Doctors' group accused of fraud

BY JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

The U.S. Justice Department has filed a civil fraud suit against a major Midlands family doctors group practice, alleging that for years the practice illegally ramped up bills by adding unnecessary charges when patients came in for visits.

Many of the alleged extra charges involved blood and liver tests to older patients on Medicare, the lawsuit said.

Medicare, a federal elderly health care program,

Allegation: For years Family Medicine Centers of South Carolina tacked on unnecessary charges to patients' bills

Government attorneys allege doctors ordered superfluous tests for their own financial gain

paid "over \$9 million" in improper payments to Family Medicine Centers of South Carolina, "many of which were medically unnecessary," according to a government lawsuit against the practice.

Family Medicine Centers is one of South Carolina's largest primary care providers.

It has six offices around the Columbia area, and its 18 physicians care for some 30,000 patients.

In bringing suit, the government joined an initial civil action against Family Medicine Centers that was brought by a physician who once worked there.

In 2013, the practice fired that doctor, Catherine Schaefer, who then brought her allegations about the practice's billing procedures to the attention of federal fraud attorneys in the U.S. Attorney's office in Columbia.

Before joining her lawsuit, federal attorneys in Columbia, working with counterparts in Washington, spent months investigating her allegations to see how much, if any, fraud might be involved, U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles

SEE DOCTORS, 7A

Man shot by Forest Acres officer

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
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A white Forest Acres police officer shot a black driver who officials say tried to strike the officer with a car early Thursday. But it was unclear whether the officer shot at the vehicle as the driver drove toward him or drove away.

The officer, whose identity was not made available Thursday, approached a man in a parked vehicle while responding to a noise complaint at about 1 a.m., Forest Acres Police Chief Gene Sealy said. The man ignored the officer's commands and headed toward him in the vehicle before fleeing.

SEE SHOOTING, 6A



FILE PHOTOGRAPH The (Prison Head) Island Packet

Flag furred at federal cemeteries?

In this file photo from 2011, the crowd stands at attention for the Presentation of Colours at the start of the Confederate Memorial Day Service at the Beaufort National Cemetery. A U.S. House bill passed Thursday would ban Confederate flags on flagpoles at federal veterans' cemeteries. See story, Page 4A

1931-2016





SPORTS OFF TO A FAST START



E GREENVILLE Greek fest returns to downtown

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,
MAY 20, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY OKLAHOMA LAWMAKERS PASS BILL TO MAKE ABORTION A FELONY PAGE 1B

Proterra wants Greenlink's orders

RUDOLPH BELL
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When Proterra Inc. hosts potential customers at its Greenville factory, a trip to Seneca 40 miles away is sometimes on the agenda.

That's because Seneca is the closest place where Proterra can show its battery-powered transit buses in action.

The transit agency that serves Seneca, Clemson Area Transit, operates six of Proterra's zero-emission transit buses.

The transit agency serving Greenville, however, Greenlink, doesn't have any — six years after Proterra relocated to Greenville from Golden, Colorado, as a startup company.

And that's made Proterra CEO Ryan

Popple impatient to see his company's vehicles driving on Greenville's streets.

"We're obviously very excited to demonstrate the technology in a hometown location, especially for our employees who are based in Greenville, who would feel a tremendous amount of pride to see the vehicles on the road here," Popple said during an exclusive interview Thursday at Proterra's factory along Interstate 85.

"We certainly think the technology has proven out in enough external markets that it's definitely ready for prime time here with Greenlink," he said. "So our general feeling would be impatience about wanting to get something going."

Greenville city and county officials have talked for years about buying Pro-

terra buses.

But so far they haven't been able to secure the 20 percent "local match" required to obtain funding from the Federal Transit Administration, said Mark Rickards, who runs Greenlink as the city of Greenville's transportation director.

That local match would be \$150,000 for a 40-foot Proterra bus priced at \$750,000.

Rickards said Thursday that Greenlink still hopes to use Proterra buses.

"We need the local cash match and available federal funds," he said.

Rickards said he figures Proterra buses could run on Laurens Road with one of the company's chargers located at either University Center or Clemson University's International Center for

Automotive Research.

Popple, however, talked about downtown when asked where he'd like to see Proterra buses running locally.

"Given the amount of exposure downtown Greenville gets as a great example of re-urbanization, a high-tech, zero-emission, quiet electric bus that's engineered and manufactured locally would really fit the narrative of what Greenville's becoming quite nicely," Popple said.

Popple also said he'd like to see Proterra buses on Greenlink routes to Clemson or ICAR since Proterra employs a lot of Clemson engineering graduates, and on routes running to Greenville-Spartan-

See GREENLINK, Page 7A



The Air Force has plans to open the seven AFSCs that were not open for women such as pararescueman and combat controller.

CHRISTOPHER V. WILLIAMS, AIR FORCE

Graham backs women registering for draft

Some conservative Republicans oppose the idea

MARY ORNDORFF TROYAN
USA TODAY NETWORK

WASHINGTON — The GOP's traditional resistance to having women register for a potential military draft is fading on Capitol Hill, where key Republican lawmakers like Sen. Lindsey Graham now support the idea.

"Women are an indispensable element of the war fighting machine," Graham said Wednesday. "So when it's time to get ready to inventory the nation to supplement the all-volunteer

in the military and it's astounding," Graham said. "In our military, you just couldn't conduct operations without female members."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., also voiced support this week.

"Given where we are today, with women in the military performing virtually all kinds of functions, I personally think it would be appropriate for them to register just like men do," McConnell told reporters on Capitol Hill.

McConnell's comments Tuesday reverberated in Washing-

House panel replaces dash cam bill with FOIA revision

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA — The House Judiciary Committee has swapped a bill governing the release of police dash cam videos with revisions to the state's Freedom of Information Act, to get around a senator's block of the FOIA bill in the Legislature's final weeks.

Committee members said Thursday they like both bills but were afraid unless they placed the FOIA language in the dash cam bill and removed the dash cam legislation, the FOIA legislation might die.

"This puts us in the best negotiating position," Rep. Weston Newton, a Beaufort County Republican and member of the committee, explained.

Sen. Margie Bright Matthews, a Colleton County Democrat, has blocked revisions to the House-passed FOIA bill saying she objects to smaller counties being limited in what they can charge for public records requests following an incident there in which clerks were inundated with such requests.

The proposed revisions would require copying fees for records not exceed rates by copying businesses and would limit fees to retrieve records to rates no higher than the lowest salary of the employees handling the records. Copy charges also would be banned if the information is released in electronic form.

The time agencies have to decide whether to release information would also be cut under the bill from 15 days to 10 days. An administrative process would be established under the bill to handle disputes over information requests to avoid all such disputes being handled before a circuit judge.

Rep. Bill Taylor, an Aiken Republican, has called out Matthews over her objection, telling his constituents that she alone is jeopardizing the bill.

Newton said Thursday that by swapping the FOIA language for the dash cam language, it would put more

LOCAL

100-year-old
Rotary member
helps keep things
rolling along 3A



LOCAL

Highway Patrol
narrows search
for vehicle in
bicyclist's death 3A



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON



Chance of storms
79°/70° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Could Hilton Head lure 5-star resort?

Hilton Head Island's Economic Development Corp. funds report on feasibility of luxury, oceanfront hotel

Consultants say 250-room resort could exist on island in right conditions

Not all Hilton Head resorts welcome idea of new luxury option

BY REBECCA LURVE
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With more than a dozen resorts and thousands of rentals to choose from, Hilton Head Island's hospitality industry sometimes seems like it's bursting at

the seams.

But in recent years, the town has imagined adding one more option to the mix: a luxury, five-star resort.

Attracting one to the island was listed as a goal by town officials during each of their last two "vision" workshops in 2010

and 2014. They have said such a higher-end resort would help boost Hilton Head's reputation and attract a higher-paying clientele.

The Hilton Head Economic Development Corp., a town-backed group of business leaders working to lure new businesses to the island, paid \$15,000 to a marketing firm to study the issue earlier this year.

But the results were less than illuminating.

"Maybe," the consultants from Chicago-based CBRE Hotels told members of the corporation's board last month. CBRE Hotels said it's feasible

the island could support a luxury resort with no more than 250 rooms, an 8,000-square-foot ballroom and nearly that much additional meeting space, multiple food and beverage options and unobstructed access to the beach.

However, the consultants warned at an April 26 corporation board meeting, "the off-season can make it difficult to support a luxury property of substantially larger size. Further, it can be difficult to retain the skilled staff necessary for the operation of a larger luxury property."

The whole operation would depend on location, cost, demand and timing, the consultants reported. "All of this is in its infancy," said CBRE Hotels managing director Henry Staley. "For a luxury product ever to be on Hilton Head, there are many, many steps that would have to be taken."

Now, with no clear answer and no exact location identified

SEE RESORT, 7A



THE LONG READ

'BEASTS' ROAR ON PARRIS ISLAND

Parris Island Marines square off against one another in a grueling — and sweaty — test of who's the best. 1C



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

SPEND SOME TIME WITH ALICE

The Beaufort Children's Theatre's production of "Through the Looking Glass" is among this weekend's delights. 3C



NATION

SO LONG, MORLEY, AND THANK YOU

Morley Safer, the veteran



FILE Staff photo

Island-bound traffic enters the city limits of Hilton Head Island at the base of the J. Wilton Graves Bridge on Memorial Day weekend last year. AAA, one of the nation's largest travel agencies and a car lobbying group, is predicting 38 million people will travel for the holiday, the most since 2005.

SUMMER TRAVEL

Road tripping returns this

In South Carolina

Currently, the average gas price in the state is \$2.04. Last year at

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50 CENTS

FRIDAY MAY 20, 2016

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Smith chosen as director for DCIT

From staff reports

DARLINGTON — Robbie Smith will become the new director of the Darlington County Institute of Technology, Dr. Eddie Ingram, Darlington County School District superintendent, announced today. Smith, who most recently served as an assistant principal at Darlington High School, will replace retiring

director Bert Guerry.

"We are very pleased Robbie will be leading DCIT," Ingram said. "He brings extensive classroom and administrative skills to the role. Most importantly, however, he brings new ideas, an exciting approach, and

a determination to transform DCIT into a robust showcase of 21st century learning. We look forward to seeing what the next year brings for DCIT and for the students of Darlington County."

During his education career, Smith served as a high school teacher, coach, athletic director and administrator. He began teaching social studies and coaching in 1990 at York Com-

prehensive High School in York, and he continued teaching and coaching at Latta High School. In 2003, Smith joined the staff of Darlington High School as a social studies teacher. During his tenure at Darlington High, Smith also served as a driver education teacher, head baseball coach, interim athletic director, textbook coordinator, assistant principal and Ninth Grade Academy

administrator.

"I am very excited about this opportunity," Smith said. "Mr. Guerry and the outstanding faculty and staff at DCIT have worked very hard to develop college- and career-ready students for years. As we look to the future, we will continue striving to create innovators who are

See DCIT, Page 5A

The Byerly Foundation

Community nonprofits can apply for grants

From staff reports

The Byerly Foundation has opened the 2016-17 grant cycle and will be accepting grant requests until June 17. The board expects to announce grant recipients in September.

Who is eligible?

As a private foundation, the Byerly Foundation can make grants to qualifying 501-C-3 organizations and certain other public, governmental units. The foundation does not make grants to individuals, and it does not fund any scholarship programs. The foundation's mission is to help make Hartsville one of the best communities for living, working and raising a family, and all of the grants must demonstrate a significant impact on the greater Hartsville community.

What is involved in the grant request?

The first thing a grant must have is the designation of being an eligible organization. The next would be a program that has a major focus on Hartsville, and the third thing would be the amount of the grant being requested. The Byerly Board is focusing on grants that can demonstrate the potential for a lasting impact on the community to improve areas in education, economic development and social needs. As the board members review grant requests this year, they will be looking for answers to five basic questions. Those questions are:

1. What is the project the organization is considering and what will be its impact on Hartsville?
2. What kinds of strategies are being planned to accomplish the goals of the program?
3. What are the organization's capabilities for making the project happen and delivering results?

See GRANTS, Page 5A



PHOTOS BY ARDIE ARWIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER
Hammer Time Party was held on East College Avenue to celebrate the repaving of that portion of College Avenue.

DON'T STOP DURING HAMMER TIME



Children enjoyed a variety of games and outdoor activities during Friday's Hammer Time Party on East College Avenue to celebrate the repaving of that portion of the street.

Party reminds community East College is open during construction

BY ARDIE ARWIDSON
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A Hammer Time Party rocked East College Avenue on May 13 to show that all businesses on that block of College Avenue are accessible during the street repaving. While the street is blocked at the Fifth Street entrance, it can be entered from Fourth Street.

In the parking lot, the city of Hartsville and Main Street Hartsville organized games and other activities for adults and children.

There were Hula-Hoops, sandboxes, beach balls, cornhole toss and more.

Brad Windham introduced his "Hart Dogs" to the community at Hammer

Time, featuring his pop's secret chili recipe.

The newly formed band, Sanctified, featuring Benjamin Johnson, Ryan McCoy and Zeb Sowell, performed.

The community enjoyed a good time of music, food and games while seeing that East College Avenue businesses are open and welcoming customers through the street construction.

City Manager Natalie Zeigler said the businesses of Retrofit and Vintage, which participated in the event, considered it a success.

"We had a lot of families in attendance that we don't normally see out which was fantastic," Zeigler said.

In February, a notice went out from

Main Street Hartsville that College Avenue, Phase 1, was to begin March 28. The release stated that access from Fifth Street would be cut off until around May 13. It appears that work is taking a little longer.

Both city parking lots remain accessible from Fourth Street.

Once Phase 1 is complete, the other half of the road will be shut down so the only access will be from Fifth Street.

Again, both parking lots will remain accessible. Phase 2 involves more asphalt so it is not projected to be complete until sometime in September, according to the February release.

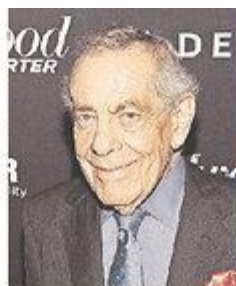
See PARTY, Page 5A

Announced patients visit Hartsville High students



BIG FINISH FOR CAROLINA MIRACLE LEAGUE

UPSTATE, C1



'60 MINUTES' LEGEND SAFER DIES AT 84

NATION & WORLD, A3

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, May 20, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN

62°/57° 79°/57° 77°/53°

Complete forecast, B8

FAITH & FAMILY



Christian rapper opens up in memoir

Two-time Grammy winner Lecrae opens up about childhood abuse, run-ins with the law, struggles with drugs and alcoholism, and doubts about God's existence in his new memoir, "Unshamed." **D1**

SPORTS

Area college teams resume postseason

The SMC baseball team looks to punch its ticket to the Junior College World Series, while the USC Upstate softball team begins NCAA tournament play in the Auburn Regional today. **B1**

CAMPAIGN 2016



Clinton grapples with Trump for spotlight

Donald Trump kept himself planted firmly in the political spotlight this week with one headline-grabbing move after another. His likely general election opponent, Hillary Clinton, seemed content to hang in the background. **A4**

NATION & WORLD

EGYPTAIR CRASH

Terrorism suspected

By Maggie Michael, Elena Becatoros and Raphael Satter
The Associated Press

CAIRO — An EgyptAir jetliner en route from Paris to Cairo with 66 people aboard veered wildly in flight and crashed in the Mediterranean Sea early Thursday, authorities said. Egyptian and Russian officials said it may have been brought down by terrorists.

There were no signs of survivors.

EgyptAir Flight 804, an Airbus A320 with 56 passengers and 10 crew members, went down about halfway between the Greek island of Crete and Egypt's coastline, or around 175 miles offshore, after takeoff from Charles de Gaulle Airport, authorities said.

Greek Defense Minister Panos Kammenos said the plane spun all the way around and suddenly lost altitude just before vanishing from radar screens around 2:45 a.m. Cairo time (12:45 a.m.

GMT).

He said it made a 90-degree left turn, then a full 360-degree turn to the right, plummeting from 38,000 to 15,000 feet. It disappeared at about 10,000 feet, he said. There were no reports of stormy weather at the time.

Egyptian and Greek authorities in ships and planes searched the suspected crash area throughout the day for traces of the airliner or its victims, with more help on the way from the

U.S., Britain and France.

But as night fell, they had yet to find any confirmed debris, at one point dismissing a reported sighting of life vests and other floating material.

Civil Aviation Minister Sherif Fathi cautioned that the disaster was still under investigation but said the possibility it was a terror attack "is higher than the possibility of having a technical failure."

Alexander Bortnikov, chief of

SEE PLANE, A7

BMW CHARITY PRO-AM

Musicians enjoy trading in their guitars for golf clubs

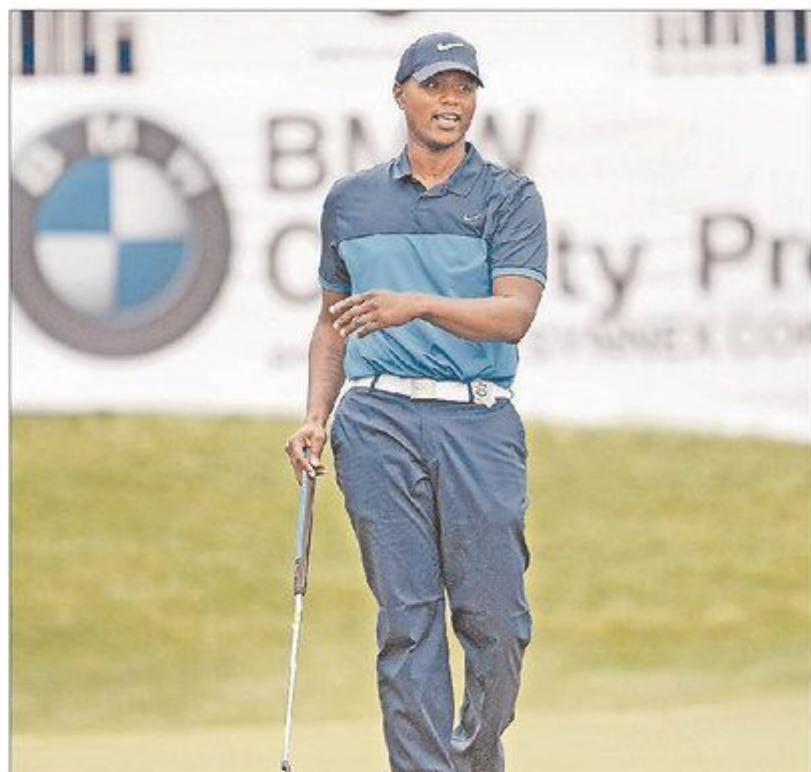
By Eric Boynton
eric.boynton@shj.com

GREER — Many years ago it wasn't fashionable for many musicians with their acknowledged rowdy, all-night lifestyles to be lured into early mornings of heading out for a long day of golf.

"If you talked about that in the 1970s, or 80s, I think people would have looked at you funny," said guitarist Mark Bryan, a founding member of Hootie & The Blowfish. "But it's sort of snuck in there as a favorite pastime for a lot of musicians. You hear a lot of the guys talk about playing while being on tour, both country and rock bands."

Bryan pointed to one of his good friends in the hard-rock band Shinedown — bassist Eric Bass — as being a single-digit handicapper who can really swing the clubs. "He's out there on the course with earrings and his hair all over the place, but he goes out and stripes it."

The BMW Charity Pro-Am has featured an array of musicians over the years from



66 missing on Egyptian flight **World, 7A**

INDEX-JOURNAL

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■ ETHICS REFORM

Independent review steps away from being law

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Complaints against South Carolina's legislators would be independently investigated under an ethics bill that could reach the finish line this session after four years of debate.

If the Senate accepts changes the House approved Thursday on a 101-2 vote, the legislation will go to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin, R-Pickens, said he's optimistic.

"It would be a huge step," he said.

Otherwise, the differing versions could head to a compromise committee of senators and House members.

Haley has insisted that independent investigations be part of ethics reform since the House Ethics Committee cleared her of allegations in 2012 that she lobbied for employers while in the House. Agreeing with her former colleagues that the state's ethics laws are too vague, she has pushed ever since to strengthen and clarify them.

Her case prompted Democrats and Republicans in both chambers to declare ethics reform a top priority, but legislation has repeatedly stalled in the Senate.

See **INDEPENDENT**, page 4A

■ CORONER RACE

Murray seeks Abbeville office

By MATTHEW HENSLEY
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Cassius Murray is a bilateral amputee, but having no feet has hardly slowed him down.

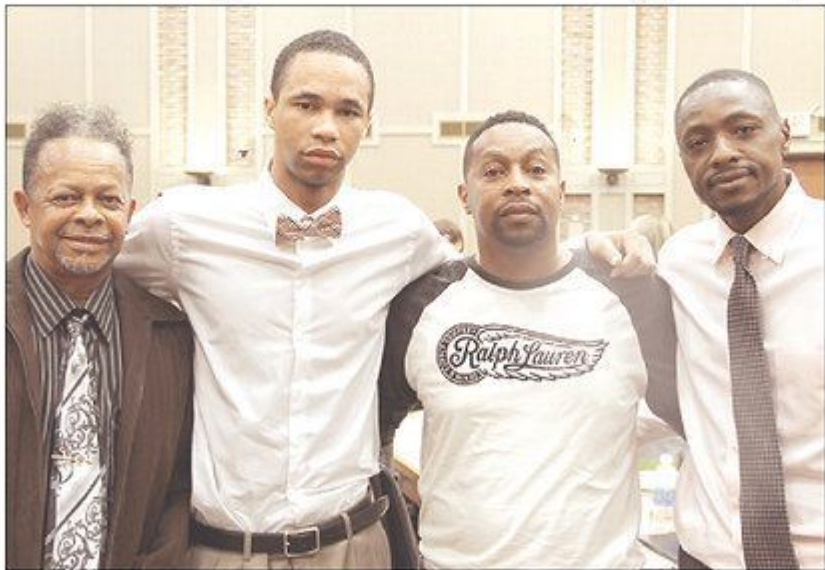
The 34-year-old Democratic candidate for Abbeville County coroner has passed the Criminal Justice Academy and served for more than nine years in law enforcement. He's now a sergeant in the Greenwood County Detention Center.



CASSIUS MURRAY

"I have great experience with difficult situation," Murray said. "I've overcome a disability in my life — what people think is a disability. I should say: It's not a disability."

Dunlap found not guilty



PHOTOS BY DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ (INDEX-JOURNAL)

Quentico Dunlap was found not guilty Thursday in the homicide trial of his 3-month-old daughter, Takari Dunlap, and was with his father and brothers after the verdict. From left are Thomas Dunlap, Quentico Dunlap, Cedric Loudon and Kelvis Loudon.

Jury: Father not responsible in daughter's death

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
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A jury heard testimony Thursday from defense witnesses and was faced with deciding whether Quentico Dunlap was responsible for his 3-month-old daughter's death.

Eighth Circuit Public Defender Patricia Bolen called Peter Dehn, a pediatrician from Minnesota, up to testify.

He said he was being paid for his expert testimony, and argued that previous doctors who treated Takari Dunlap may have gotten the cause of her symptoms wrong. The bleeding inside her skull, which caused damage to the brain, along with the hemorrhaging in her eyes may not have been caused by "non-accidental head injury," but by a rare condition.

The condition, arteriovenous malformation, creates connections between the arteries and veins inside the skull and if they burst, it can cause the same bleeding Takari experienced, he said.

"This is the kind of situation where an otherwise healthy adult can fall over with this massive bleeding," he said. "It appears as if that's what happened here."

Since Takari had no injuries to the bones or muscles in her neck, it didn't appear to Dehn as if the damage was caused by shaking, as other doctors testified.

Dunlap's mother and two siblings also testified to his character — saying he was always attentive and caring for Takari. Debra Dunlap, Quentico's mother, said she called him the morning before Takari was taken to the hospital.

"I told him to put the phone on her



Eighth Circuit Public Defender Janna Nelson argued Thursday that inconsistent testimony and a weak investigation by law enforcement did not provide enough evidence to convict Quentico Dunlap for the death of his 3-month-old daughter, Takari Dunlap.

little fat belly," she said. "She was just talking, talking, talking."

In their closing statements, Nelson and Eighth Circuit Solicitor David Stumbo made their cases to the jury. Nelson argued that the testimony from Dehn cast reasonable doubt on the other doctors, and there were inconsistencies in witnesses' written statements and testimonies.

"The reason those statements are all crafted is because the state doesn't want you to think that baby was okay when

she left Quentico," she said. "No one thought anything was wrong with her because the baby was acting like babies do. It's only here, 14 months later, that we get these crafted statements."

Stumbo called Nelson's defense "smoke and mirrors," and asked the jury to question Dehn's medical opinion.

"The sole purpose for the defense to put up Dr. Dehn — who is from Minnesota of all places — is to cloud the issue," he said.

See **NOT GUILTY**, page 4A

■ SC LEGISLATURE

Lawmakers seek help for Stand Your Ground defense

By JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Supreme Court is asking legislators to help them better define the state's "stand-your-ground" self-defense law, but a group of senators said Thursday that immediately expanding the law isn't the right way to do it.

A Senate subcommittee decided not to vote on a bill Thursday that would shift the burden to prosecutors to prove that those who have killed someone were not in fear for their lives when claiming self-defense and allow an instant appeal that could delay trials for years if a judge rules against a defendant. The bill passed the House 106-0 in February.

"This is a bad idea," said Sen. Greg Hembree, a Republican who was a prosecutor in Horry County.

Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey pointed out the Supreme Court ruling from Wednesday, which upheld a judge's determination that a Charleston County woman could claim self-defense in the stabbing of her boyfriend while she was moving her stuff out of the home she shared.

The boyfriend had pulled Whitlee Jones' hair and dragged her in November 2012 before things cooled off enough for her to gather her belongings and grab a knife in case he attacked her again. As Jones took her stuff to her car, Eric Lee grabbed her, shook her and told her their relationship was over and it was her fault. She stabbed him once and waited for police. He died later at the hospital, according to the Supreme Court ruling.

In its 17-page ruling, the Supreme Court cited the sometimes contradictory or incomplete portions of the stand-your-ground law, and asked legislators to clarify under what circumstances someone can claim self-defense if they kill a stranger or someone else in their home. They also asked them to determine if all defendants deserve a hearing on a stand-your-ground defense before a trial can start.

With only seven days left in the General Assembly's session...



SHANE MASSEY

John de la Howe seeing personnel turnover

By ARIEL GILREATH

and place the school under the said. The reason those statements are all crafted is because the state doesn't want you to think that baby was okay when



Morning News

FRIDAY MAY 20, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

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Highway 76 corridor in Florence County

Council spearheads improvement study

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — After months of mulling, the Florence County Council voted Thursday to move forward with an improvement plan for the Highway 76 corridor from the Florence city limits to

Francis Marion University.

The council unanimously authorized Florence County Administrator K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. to negotiate a contract with Toole Design Group to study the section of East Palmetto and present options to revamp the area.

Smith said this step is to boost the appearance and functionality

of the East Palmetto corridor, as well as leave a favorable first impression for possible investors.

"When you have business prospects come in and leave the airport, that first impression isn't good," Smith said. "This is a corridor enhancement to ensure that future development occurs in a manner that is complemen-

tary to a sustainable future for Florence County."

Smith said the county has initiated this plan but it will be a collaborative effort of the county, the city, McLeod Health, the Florence Regional Airport and Francis Marion University.

Ideas for the plan were started when the county and city teamed

up last year in an effort to address an eyesore on the same stretch — the dilapidated Palmetto Inn. An attempt to obtain a grant to clean up the site failed and talks of an overlay district sprouted.

The study could eventually lead to an ordinance to zone

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

Florence School District One reviews revised budget

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dsweARINGEN@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Trustees of Florence School District One heard revisions made to the 2016-17 budget Thursday evening after recommendations were made from principals, department heads and others at a budget retreat in late April.

Recommendations included additional teachers at the elementary schools, added curriculum coordinators, increased technology funds and more.

John Thames, the district's interim assistant superintendent for finance, said he had to reduce the amount of general fund money given for these requests from \$1.4 million to approximately \$1.1 million.

"Well, we don't have enough money to do it all, but we've got enough to get started," said Randy Bridges, district superintendent.

Overall, he said, he was pleased with what the district would be able to do with the allocated money.

"Quite frankly, I think this is a good swing at some of the things that we chose to do last time," Bridges said.

The proposed budget for 2016-17 has expected revenue of \$141,166,409.19.

At the retreat, representatives from the elementary schools requested additional teachers, as well as equitable changes to administrative staffs. This would mean each school would have at least one assistant principal and one curriculum coordinator.

"I don't think we're going to get close to being able to put an assistant principal and a curriculum coordinator in every elementary school," Bridges said.

But the district will have enough money to convert the four curriculum coordinators at the largest schools into assistant principals, he said. According to Bridges, there are currently eight curriculum coordinators at the elementary schools.

Secondary schools also requested curriculum coordinators at each site. Again, Bridges said, the district cannot afford this but will be able to provide three for the six schools to share.

Some other changes to the budget included a loss of \$238,249 in employer fringe benefits, which is a form of pay for the performance



Jabril West performs during the Florence County Disabilities Foundation talent show. West, along with group members Keenan Davis and Travis Pringle, won the talent competition by dancing to the song "Use Ta Be My Girl" by The O'Jays.

Happiness abounds at Disabilities Foundation talent show

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dsweARINGEN@florencenews.com



"B Cool Group" performs during the Florence County Disabilities Foundation talent show.

FLORENCE — Cheers erupted across the Francis Marion University's Chapman Auditorium on Thursday, and the arms of the Jabril West, Keenan Davis and Travis Pringle shot into the air in celebratory delight.

Rocking black outfits, colored vests, bow ties and sunglasses, the trio celebrated a first-place win at the 19th annual Florence County Disabilities Foundation "The Stars Are Out" talent show.

"We just had to do what we had to do," said West to fans after the show. "It took a lot of practice."

In their first and second performance of the day, the group danced to "Use Ta Be My Girl" by The O'Jays. A portion of the performance included an appearance by several women, who acted out the part of "my girl."

Unlike some of the other competitors, West, Davis and Pringle competed earlier in the day to earn a spot in the final round of competition.

Each Department of Special Needs had its own talent show prior to Thursday's competition, and "The Stars Are Out" was the finals for the entire Pee Dee region, said

The 19th annual talent show hosted by the Florence



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