



Jasper County
Sun
Ridgeland, SC
Circ. 1950
From Page:
4
10/7/2015
65216



OTHER VOICES: EDITORIAL

The Herald, Rock Hill, South Carolina, on domestic violence in state:

South Carolina once again has ranked worst in the nation for deadly violence against women. This is the fourth time that the state has ranked first and the 18th consecutive year it has ranked in the top 10.

But South Carolina cannot accept this as our destiny. And, with significant changes in state law regarding penalties for domestic violence and ongoing attention to the problem, the state finally appears to be taking steps to reduce the violence against women.

According to rankings released by the Violence Policy Center, South Carolina had a rate of 2.32 women killed per 100,000 in 2013 the worst in the nation. That's more than twice the national average and represents 57 known deaths, compared with 50 a year earlier, when the state ranked second in the nation in the number of women killed by men.

But earlier this year, state lawmakers passed a substantive domestic violence bill that increased penalties for those convicted of criminal domestic violence. The effort also was supported by both Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson, who lobbied hard for reforms.

Haley created a special task force, which still is in place, to study the causes of domestic violence and find ways to reduce it. Wilson was joined by local prosecutors from across the state who worked with him to bring about new and stiffer penalties for domestic abusers.

Victim advocate groups also were effective in calling for changes. When lobbying lawmakers, they noted that penalties were greater for hunting out of season than for domestic abuse.

The bill passed by the Leg-

islature gave prosecutors and judges more options in dealing with domestic abuse. The new law creates a four-tiered system of possible crimes with which suspects can be charged, ranging from a misdemeanor with a possible 90-day sentence to a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

And those convicted of the most serious charges could be barred from owning a gun for up to a decade.

But while these changes in the law are a crucial step in dealing with domestic abuse, the state's high rate of violence is not likely to change until we also address

the root causes of violence against women.

We are encouraged that Haley's task force, which has been meeting all year, has proposed dozens of wide-ranging recommendations that promote a comprehensive approach to the problem. Proposals include training and hiring more 911 operators, improving documentation of the crime scene and increasing the number of shelters for abused women and their children statewide.

In addition to changing the law, we also must change the culture. We must encourage friends and neighbors to report domestic abuse when they see evidence of it. We need to teach young males non-violent ways to resolve domestic disputes. We need to provide more safe havens for abused women so they can leave violent relationships. We need to teach law enforcement officers the most effective ways to handle cases of domestic abuse in the field and later, when questioning victims and suspects.

While South Carolina has a long way to go, changes taken this year appear likely to yield results. With hard work, maybe the state finally can lose its ranking among the top-10 states for domestic violence.



The Holly Hill
Observer
Holly Hill, SC
Circ. 1178
From Page:
1
10/8/2015
64839



148

A flood to remember

Cindy O'Neil
Managing Editor

For most of the residents in eastern Orangeburg County, life is beginning to get back to normal after the torrential rains and flooding that occurred here over the weekend.

On Monday afternoon, while other areas of the state began grappling with the deluge of rain and flooding, the Holly Hill Police Department removed the barricades along State Street - part of US Highway 176 - connecting the area to both Columbia and Charleston.

Forecasters had predicted heavy rains and flooding for South Carolina. The weather models had indicated an upper level low-pressure area spinning away in the atmosphere over Georgia, pulling moisture from the Atlantic and pushing it into South Carolina.

The plume of moisture it created, also called an atmospheric river, continued to push heavy rain over the same areas. The low was not able to move and incredible amounts of rain fell.

Eastern Orangeburg County saw the heaviest amount of rainfall on Sunday, and at some point on Monday, that low over Georgia pushed ever so slightly further north moving the rain out of our area and to points north and west.

By Tuesday afternoon, 14 weather-related deaths had been confirmed. At a news briefing held on Tuesday, Gov. Nikki Haley told residents the next 36 to 48 hours are critical as floodwaters move downstream from the Midlands.

Additionally, Haley said residents must obey road closures. "People are starting to move barriers and drive through them, and then others drive through because there are no barriers, putting other people at risk," she said.

By 6 p.m. on Tuesday, SCDOT reported 262 roads and 147 bridges closed.



The Holly Hill
Observer
Holly Hill, SC
Circ. 1178
From Page:
1
10/8/2015
64839



Holly Hill Police Chief Josh Dettter slogs through Peake Street last Sunday. See more photos on Page 2.

¹⁴⁸ **Salk professor wanted to teach rural students**

By JULIE S. HOFF
widdlewife@aol.com

With a doctorate from prestigious Cornell University, you can pretty much work wherever you wish. Dr. Aaron Ard returned to South Carolina to teach business management at USC-Salkehatchie.

He wanted to reach students like himself from rural areas with limited educational opportunities.

"When you can turn a kid from a rural environment on to a life of the mind, you see that light come on — that's what I like."

Today Ard is interim academic dean at Salkehatchie, and enthusiastic about Palmetto College spearheading higher education opportunities in rural areas.

With funding approved by Governor Nikki Haley and the General Assembly, lawmakers "realize that with employers like Boeing and Volvo, we need educated people," he said.

Ard, one of the first Palmetto College instructors, realized he wanted to be an educator in graduate school, when he was asked to be a teaching assistant for an undergraduate management course.

"I found I really enjoyed it," he said.

Growing up in Darlington, Ard never dreamed he'd be a college professor or earn a Ph.D. from an Ivy League college.

He quit school at 15 to help support his family and joined the Navy on his 17th birthday.

He earned his GED, mustered out after four years and worked as a police officer for 11 years.

He earned an associate's degree in math and science from Florence-Darlington Technical College, then commuted to Charleston Air Force Base to earn a bachelor of science

in human resource development through Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

He has a master's degree in public administration from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. and a Ph.D. in management and economic statistics, also from Cornell.

One of Ard's mentors was Milton Clark, an instructor at Florence-Darlington Tech.

"He's from New York, and he's

the one who planted a seed in my mind about graduate work at Cor-

nell," Ard said.

He took an entrance exam, won a scholarship and hit the books. Today his goal is to emulate the teachers who inspired him.

"One thing they had in common was they were passionately committed to their disciplines," he said. "Students know when you're just there for the paycheck."

Ard says his classes feature "a lot of hands-on learning. I treat students like employees as we develop business plans and projects and get into data analysis. As I introduce business concepts, I integrate them into facets of students' everyday life — some of them have jobs, so I ask how their employer would handle interviewing new candidates, for example."

Ard has been teaching at the collegiate level for almost 20 years and has been at Salk for two years. He also teaches online courses for USC-Columbia through Palmetto College, primarily in the management curriculum.

Last year, Ard was invited to guest lecture at the Darla Moore School of Business on the history and principles of the Austrian School of economic analysis.

He was named Salkehatchie's interim academic dean in January. He splits his work week between the Allendale and Walterboro campuses; this year he moved to Walterboro.

Ard said his Christian faith affects how he teaches.

"It's in the way I talk and act, the way I honor relationships," he said. And he knows first-hand the ripple effects of education.

"I was the first person in my family to go to college. When a person in rural South Carolina becomes educated, it changes their life, and

the lives of their families," he said.

"When they get that degree and become a teacher or nurse, their families are viewed differently in the community."

(This is the first in a series profiling instructors teaching at the new Palmetto College, which includes University of South Carolina campuses in Allendale and Walterboro — known as Salkehatchie — and in Sumter, Lancaster and Union counties.

Palmetto College was funded by state lawmakers to provide affordable, quality higher education in rural areas.



Press &
Standard
Walterboro, SC
Circ. 5673
From Page:
8a
10/1/2015
64240



The college offers seven bachelor's degrees: Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Elementary Education, Human Services, Liberal Studies, Organizational Leadership and a BSN in Nursing.

Palmetto College has also part-

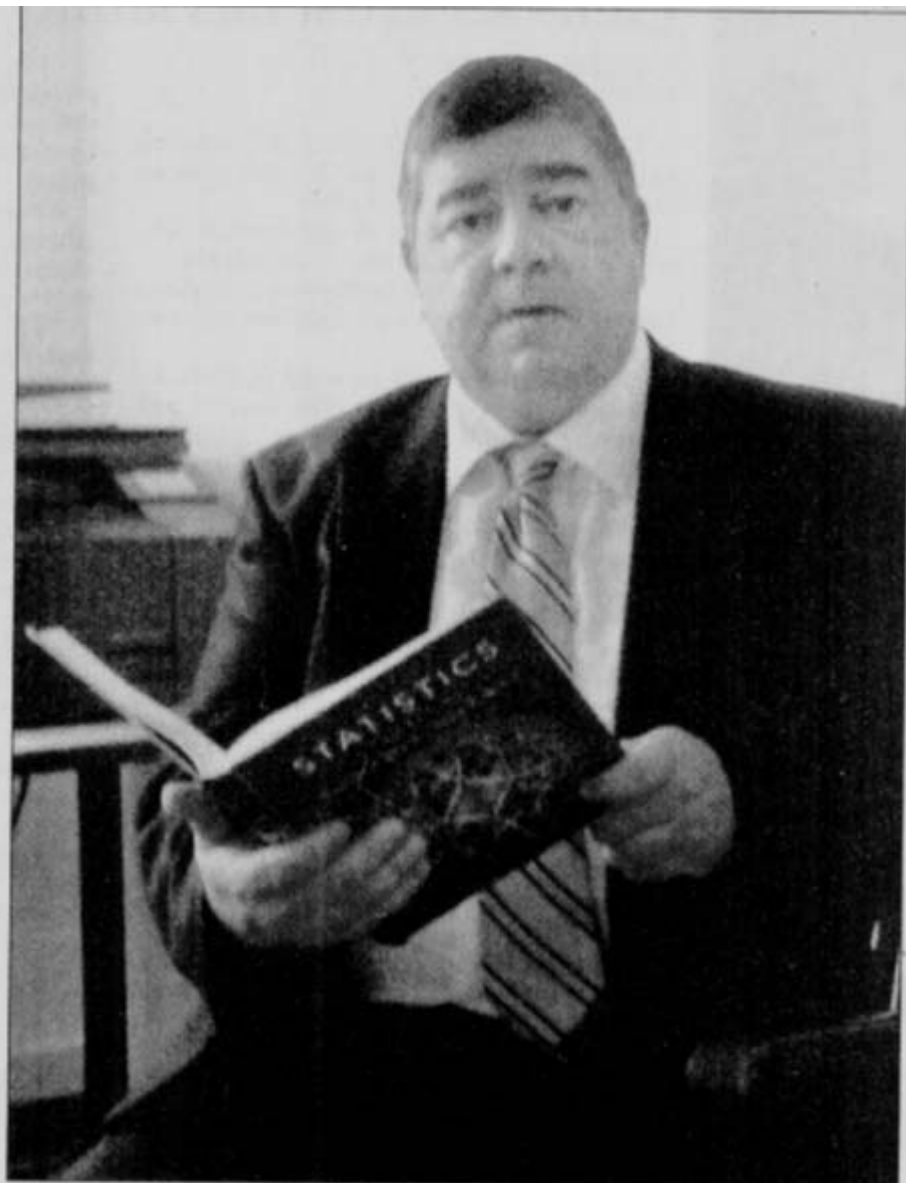
nered with USC-Beaufort to offer a Human Services (social work) degree. An Extended University is also available at Fort Jackson, where students can attend classes on base or commute to campus.)

Press &
Standard
Walterboro, SC
Circ. 5673
From Page:
8a
10/1/2015
64240



DR. AARON ARD FAST FACTS:

- Education: Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; Master's and PhD from Cornell University.
- Teaches: Management, organizational leadership and math statistics.
- Residence: Walterboro.
- Hobbies: Fishing ("salt water, preferably") and reading books about economics
- Quote: "I teach because teachers changed my life."



DR. AARON ARD

Journal-Scene
Summerville, SC
Circ. 5929
From Page:
1
9/30/2015
64234



148 County GOP endorses Nash for coroner

JENNA-LEY HARRISON

jharrison@journalscene.com

Executive Committee members with Dorchester County's Republican party voted to recommend the



Nash

governor appoint former sheriff Ray Nash as an interim coroner should current Coroner

Christopher Nisbet be indicted and removed in the coming weeks.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has charged Nisbet with misconduct in office, after police said he pulled a gun on an unarmed neighbor following a vehicle pursuit.

Nisbet posted a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond earlier this month during a Magistrate Court hearing. A grand jury meets for the next term of general sessions court Oct. 5, the earliest Nisbet could be indicted on the misconduct charge.

Nash said party officials are in no way taking sides on the issue or showing disrespect for Nisbet.

"No one is trying to criticize the coroner," he said.

While he wasn't at Thursday's GOP meeting, he quickly learned the news.

"I was very honored to receive (the recommendation)," Nash said.

But nothing is set in stone at this point. Nisbet may not be indicted or Gov. Nikki Haley may not choose to remove him.

"We don't know with absolute certainty it will come open," Nash said of the position's opening.

Peggy Bangle, vice chairman for the party, said Nash is not planning to run for re-election. He would only serve as an interim coroner.

She also said the decision is simply preparation for both the county and Haley.

"Because if (Nisbet) were to resign and she has no informa-

See **CORONER, Page 8A**

Coroner

from page 1A

tion (on her desk), she has to scramble," Bangle said.

Party members feel Nash already has the training and experience for carrying out the coroner's job duties.

"He would already be up to speed with the law enforcement side...he's got the degree; he's

got the qualifications; he knows the area and how to work with the Sheriff's Office," Bangle said.

Nash served as sheriff for three consecutive four-year terms, retiring in 2009.

He's also held the position of Summerville police chief and worked for the Irmo Police Department earlier in his law enforcement career.

The coroner is up for re-election next year.



Marion Star &
Mullins
Enterprise
Marion, SC
Circ. 3842
From Page:
3
9/30/2015
63186



¹⁴⁸Planned Parenthood: Correction plans should address concerns

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Planned Parenthood will submit correction plans to South Carolina's public health agency in hopes of bringing its Columbia clinic into compliance and removing the possibility of forced closure, according to a statement Monday from regional CEO Jenny Black.

"We take our role as an essential community health care provider very seriously, and are committed to keeping our doors open to all South Carolinians that rely on us for access to critical health care," Black said in the statement. "We will do everything in our power today to verify our compliance with all state laws and regulations."

It is unclear when Planned Parenthood will submit the plans, or whether it has paid a \$7,500 fine. A spokeswoman did not immediately answer questions.

Earlier this month, the Department of Health and Environmental Control suspended the licenses of two of the state's three abortion clinics. The Sept. 11 orders gave the clinics until 5 p.m. Monday to address the violations and a pay a fine.

DHEC lifted sanctions Friday against the Greenville Women's Clinic after it addressed the issues, paid a \$2,750 fine and submitted proof of staff training. The agency noted it had not received anything from Planned Parenthood, which must pay a \$7,500 penalty.

Violations cited at both places included incomplete records, performing an abortion sooner than 60 minutes after an ul-

trasound and not properly disposing of aborted fetuses. According to manifests, the fetuses were sterilized with steam and taken to a landfill, rather than incinerated or buried as required by law.

The Columbia clinic was cited for 21 violations and the Greenville clinic for six. Planned Parenthood's additional citations include having expired medicine and storing sterile and nonsterile gloves together.

The Charleston Women's Medical Center was cited for what DHEC called four minor documentation errors.

The orders against the Greenville and Columbia clinics marked the first time the agency had suspended an abortion clinic's license.

They came less than a month after Gov. Nikki Haley, who appoints all of DHEC's board members, asked the agency to investigate the three clinics' policies and practices. The request came amid public outcry following the release of secretly taped videos that show Planned Parenthood officials elsewhere discussing the collection of fetal organs for research. Republicans across the country called for investigations.

Republican legislators in South Carolina have asked the Legislative Audit Council to conduct its own review of Planned Parenthood. The agency's governing board will consider the requests Thursday.

Planned Parenthood officials have repeatedly said none of its clinics in the South Atlantic region participates in fetal tissue collection.

148
+
59

Once in a thousand years

Flooding in Darlington County

By Jana E. Pye
Editor
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Rain from Hurricane Joaquin devastated much of South Carolina October 2 - 4, and damaged many areas of Darlington County.

Reports from the Darlington County Sheriff's Office warned motorists to TADD - Turn Around Don't Drive - a warning that claimed the life of a young woman in Columbia that drowned as her car filled with flood waters. S.C. Highway Patrol reported three other weather related traffic fatalities.

Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina, issued a statement on Sunday warning residents to stay home. "This

flood disaster has been like nothing South Carolina has ever seen," said Haley. "Estimates indicate that this type of flooding occurs only once in a thousand years." Gov. Haley also warned residents of the dangers of the water. "It's not something to be out taking pictures of," she said. "This is not something you want your kids playing in. The water is not safe."

The City of Darlington's administration office on Pearl Street sustained major damage when one of the two chimneys collapsed directly above the Mayor's office on the second

floor (formerly David Vaughan's office for Darlington Downtown Revitalization Association), causing leaking from the ceil-

ing. City employees were working from the Fire Department office on Monday.

Lisa Rock, City Planner for

Darlington, said that remarkably no trees are down in city limits except for on C Avenue. "If people see limbs hanging or down, report the damage, and don't try to move it."

Rock urged residents to call 911 for emergencies, and call 843-758-1127 for other issues

and for after-hours issues with tree issues, water and sewer services.

Rock also noted that the Chalmers Street "Ditch" is still flowing well, and the putrid smell has not returned.

FLOOD ON 3A



Bryant Street, one of the various roads in Darlington County that washed out during the storm flooding.
COURTESY OF DARLINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

News and Press
Darlington, SC
Circ. 5933
From Page: 1
10/7/2015
63111





News and Press
Darlington, SC
Circ. 5933
From Page:
1
10/7/2015
63111



Firefighters move to tarp roof damage at the City Administration Building on Pearl Street in Darlington. One of two chimneys collapsed. This office is closed until further notice.
COURTESY OF DARLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



Trucks trapped in flood waters on North Main Street.
PHOTO BY SAMANTHA LYLES
MORE PHOTOS AT WWW.NEWSANDPRESS.NET

Below: Century old pecan tree felled in Lamar.
PHOTO BY CRAIG LACROSS





Flood

Continued from 1A

Nearby Sumter has issued a warning for residents to boil water before consumption, but that precaution has not been issued for Darlington County as of Monday.

South Carolina Highway

Department released on Monday that 70 miles of I-95 were closed due to flooding. The South Carolina Department of Transportation closed a section of the highway between the I-20 and I-26 interchanges Sunday due to flooding from storms.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation urged motorists to stay off the

roads, and social media was abuzz with photographs of washed out roads.

Historic rainfall and flooding closed hundreds of state roads and bridges on Sunday, according to SCDOT.

S.C. Department of Transportation closed hundreds of state roads and bridges on Sunday.

Acting SCDOT Secretary Christy A. Hall said, "The average vehicle can be swept away in as little as 12 inches of moving water and stalled out in as little as two feet of water."

As of press time on Monday, October 5:

Cancellations: Darlington County School District closed schools for Monday, October 5.

As of press time,

Roads washed out:

Law Plantation Road: All lanes blocked due to road washout October 3 – October 17.

Lawson Road: both lanes were flooded October 3 – 5.

Duke Energy reports:

According to Charles

Ellison, Senior Communications Consultant from

Robinson Nuclear Plant, the Duke Energy nuclear power plant on Lake Robinson in Hartsville is not in any danger. "The recent extreme weather has raised concerns regarding lake levels and dam stability in S.C. There are no concerns regarding the dam at Lake Robinson. Duke Energy continues to monitor the dam," said Ellison. "Lake levels are being managed in accordance with regulatory requirements through the controlled release of water. We are working closely with local emergency management officials to ensure everyone is prepared and aware of the situation."

The public can find travel information such as road conditions on the SCDOT web site: www.scdot.org.

News and Press
Darlington, SC
Circ. 5933
From Page:
3a
10/7/2015
63111



N Darlington Street near Lamar Elementary School

PHOTO COURTESY OF DARLINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE





News and Press
Darlington, SC
Circ. 5933
From Page:
3a
10/7/2015
63111



Left: Law Plantation Road
PHOTO COURTESY OF
DARLINGTON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Poll shows residents support Legislature's decision on flag

Winthrop survey reflects shift in public opinion

Gregory A. Summers

gsummers@thelancasternews.com

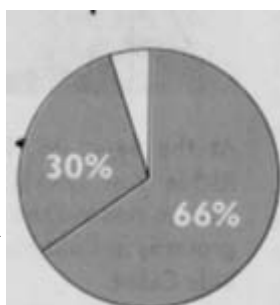
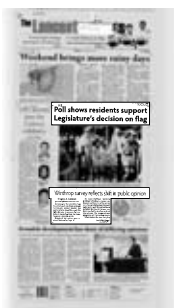
According to the latest Winthrop University poll, two thirds of South Carolinians polled believe the state's General Assembly made the right decision to remove the Confederate battle flag from the Statehouse in Columbia in July.

Results of the survey were released Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Dr. Scott Huffmon, Winthrop professor of political science, and founder and director of the university's Social & Behavioral Research Laboratory, said the poll sampling included 963 South Carolina residents reached by landline and cellular phones. The margin of sampling error is 3.2 percentage points. What makes this new sampling

See **POLL | Page 2**

Lancaster News
Lancaster, SC
Circ. 12696
From Page:
1
10/2/2015
62165



Q: This past July, the South Carolina Legislature voted to completely remove the confederate battle flag from the Statehouse grounds. Was this the right decision or the wrong decision?

☒ Right decision

☐ Wrong decision

☐ No opinion

Source: Winthrop Poll Sept. 19-27



Photo courtesy of GRACE BEAHM/The (Charleston) Post and Courier
Members of the S.C. Highway Patrol honor guard remove the Confederate battle flag from the monument in front of the Statehouse in Columbia on July 10. The flag will now be housed in the state Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.

Dear Mr. Government....

Students in Mrs. St. Clair's class at COLT write to local officials

News &
Reporter
Chester, SC
Circ. 6700
From Page:
1
9/23/2015
62090



BY BRIAN GARNER/THE N&R

The students pose in front of the display made up of the letters and photos they received from the elected and appointed officials they wrote to.

BY BRIAN GARNER

bgarner@onlinechester.com

How many times have you heard someone say 'I'm going to write my congressman' or 'I'm going to write my county council?' Students in Mrs. Rebecca St. Clair's 3rd grade class at COLT actually did.

As part of their studies on the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, the students sent letters to local elected or appointed officials including S.C. Governor Nikki Haley, S.C. Senator Creighton Coleman, City of Chester Mayor George Caldwell, Chester City Councilmembers Betty Bagley and Annie Reid, Chester County Supervisor Shane Stuart, Chester County Councilman Alex Oliphant, County Magistrates Judge Angel Underwood and Judge Barbara Cameron. One student also wrote to

S.C. Supreme Court Justice Kay Hearne.

The students in the class said they wanted to write to the government officials so they could learn about them. Following a classroom discussion, some of the questions they asked their government correspondents were about what their jobs were like and what they did.

One student asked Chester Mayor George Caldwell, what does it take to be a mayor?

The students chose to actually put pen or pencil to paper and write a letter as opposed to sending an email, and once the letters were written, Mrs. St. Clair mailed them off to the officials. Then came the waiting as the students watched for a response.

"We waited a while, and then the answers came back," the students said.

While the students said it took "weeks and weeks" for the letters from the

officials to come back (it probably felt like that long) Mrs. St. Clair said some of the children in the class got answers from their elected official within a week of writing to them.

Some of the officials penned a few lines and some of them wrote longer letters in answer to the students' questions. But all of them asked to visit the classroom and talk to the students.

Gov. Haley sent an autographed picture. County Supervisor Stuart sent a photo of himself and his dog Emily. Both of these photos and some of the letters the students got back were put into a display hanging outside of Mrs. St. Clair's classroom.

The county supervisor also posted the letter he received from student Cadarius Heath and his

See COLT, Page 2-A





News &
Reporter
Chester, SC
Circ. 6700
From Page:
2a
9/23/2015
62090

COLT

Continued from Page 1-A

response on his Facebook page.

Cadarrius wrote:

Dear Mr. Stuart:

My name is Cadarrius Heath and my class is learning about the three branches of government. And I wanted to learn more about the legislative branch. What do you do at your job? And do you get to see your family? Do you get what you want? Do you get to leave your room? Do you have a dog? Thanks if you write back.

The students said their next move will be to get the elected officials to visit their class. They plan to visit the S.C. Statehouse in the spring, where they might get to see Sen. Coleman and if they're lucky, even Gov. Haley.

"These students are learning about government for the first time in their schooling," says Rebecca St. Clair.

"I'm a big fan of government, and I think it's really important. I want the kids to realize our elected officials are people, too. So when the students wrote

to them and especially when they got letters back, I think it kind of helped them realize the elected officials weren't just names."

And that was certainly worth the price of a few stamps.

Editor's note: *Be sure to look for the second part of this story when some local government officials talk about how they responded to the letters from the students, and see Shane Stuart's response to Cadarrius Heath.*



148 + 59

Rains, Floodwaters Drown the Capital City, Drench S.C.

By Eva Moore

As *Free Times* went to press Tuesday, 16 people were dead in South Carolina and hundreds displaced after water devastated the state.

On Oct. 1, three days before the storm, local government leaders began warning that something was going to happen. Gov. Nikki Haley declared a preemptive state of emergency. A historic combination of weather events — Hurricane Joaquin off the Atlantic Coast feeding moisture into a low pressure system centered over the Southeast — meant the state could face historic rainfall and flooding.

What nobody knew was exactly how it would happen.

The rain began Friday, but didn't get serious until late Saturday. The city of Columbia reported a new 24-hour record rainfall — 7.77 inches between 11 a.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday, according to The Weather Channel. Rain continued through Sunday and much of Monday.

While other parts of the state got more rain, Columbia was particularly hard hit by flooding.

And some of the worst of the flooding occurred along Gills Creek, which runs from Northeast Columbia through a series of dammed up lakes and ponds in Forest Acres before entering the Congaree south of I-77. Dams were still failing Monday, forcing further evacuations.

"It just got beaten bad," says Bill Stangler, the Congaree Riverkeeper, referring to the Gills Creek watershed. "One lake after the other. Part of what we saw was one dam would break and stress the ones below. We're lucky that Lake Katharine and Forest Lake held."

Of the 10 dams in the state that had failed by Tuesday, five of them were in Richland County.

The rain-swollen creeks flooded homes and streets. At the intersection of Garners Ferry and the Rosewood Drive extension, floodwaters flowed through a collapsed Title Max building. First responders pulled people from their cars, which were submerged in the muddy water.

Taboo, a sex toy shop across the street from the Title Max, got about four feet of water, says owner Jeffrey White. The store will need some new carpet and walls, and a new computer — "But the good news is all the product four feet and above is still good," White says.

"It looks like we're going to be able to repair it and get back open relatively quickly," White says. "I'm just glad the building is still there. I'm glad it's still secure. I'm glad we don't have pornography floating up in people's backyards."

The floodwaters washed out roads and bridges across the state. As of Tuesday, the South Carolina Department of Transportation said 306 roads and 163 bridges in the state were closed. A 74-mile stretch of I-95 remained closed. In Richland County, closed roads included sections of Bluff Road, Hard Scrabble, Decker Boulevard, Caughman Road, Killian Road, Fort Jackson Boulevard, Sunset Drive and many more.

In Richland County, the coroner has identified seven people who drowned during the flood, most in their cars.

Statewide, the Highway Patrol had taken 4,367 service calls for service as of Tuesday, of which 1,843 were traffic collisions, according to Gov. Nikki Haley. The Department of Natural Resources had performed 175 water rescues of people and animals.

Statewide, 824 people were hunkered down in 26 shelters.

"That number's going to go up," Haley warned.

The Congaree River's level is dropping, but reached a high of 31.81 feet during the storm. Flood level is 19 feet.

"I'm glad we don't have pornography floating up in people's backyards."

— Jeffrey White, owner of Taboo, which had four feet of water inside



First responders navigate the flood waters on Devine Street on Oct. 3. Photo by John Carlos

Free Times
Columbia, SC
Circ. 36854
From Page:
10
10/7/2015
61438





Free Times
Columbia, SC
Circ. 36854
From Page:
11
10/7/2015
61438



Stangler, the Riverkeeper, says there hasn't been a flood like this in the Midlands since 1936. He did a flyover of the area Tuesday morning, and says the devastation is widespread.

"We've still got several sewer plants underwater," Stangler said. "It's running high and it's going to run high for a while. Things have moved, things have changed. One of the biggest concerns I have right now is water quality. Not just sewer plants — everything else gets washed in ... dangerous chemicals, gas tanks, all sort of stuff. We're going to have an ongoing problem."



Santee Striper
Santee, SC
Circ. 698
From Page:
1
10/8/2015
61315



148

A flood to remember

Cindy O'Neil
Managing Editor

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Forecasters had predicted heavy rains and flooding for South Carolina. The weather

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Additionally, Haley said residents must obey road closures. "People are starting to move barriers and drive through them, and then others drive through because there are no barriers, putting other people at risk," she said.

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At Polin's Bridge on Cleveland Street west of Santee State Park. The driver and firefighter who pulled him to safety are okay. See more photos on Page 2.

Photo - C. O'Neil



Santee Striper
Santee, SC
Circ. 698
From Page:
1
10/8/2015
61315

