

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>

To:

Date: 1/11/2016 11:42:24 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, January 11, 2016

SC Front Pages – Monday, January 11, 2016



CLEMSON BASKETBALL, 1C
TIGERS TOP LOUISVILLE



METRO, 3A
Rallying against demagogues

The Greenville News PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,
JANUARY 11, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

#1 CLEMSON vs. #2 ALABAMA

Kickoff 8:30 p.m., ESPN



Deshaun Watson is
18-1
as Clemson's starting quarterback

Shaq Lawson has
10.5
sacks for the season, tied for the sixth-best single-season total in Clemson history.

19
The number of consecutive games Derrick Henry has with a touchdown, currently the longest active streak in the nation

Alabama's defense ranks
3
nationally and leads the SEC in sacks with 3.57 per game

'You kind of ride their coattails'

Clemson seeing boost in business from title game

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

During a normal year, the first week of January at the Esso Club would be quiet as Clemson University students returned from winter break and there is a lull in the school's sports calendar. But, on New Year's Day, ESPN called.

The sports network wanted to broadcast from the popular Clemson bar as a part of its coverage of the College Football Playoff's final game, in which Clemson will face Alabama for the national championship.

ESPN's team arrived in Clemson last Monday and broadcast from the bar multiple times on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The network's presence, plus Clemson students' and city residents' excitement for the game, has given the Esso Club a big boost in business, according to general

See BOOST, Page 4A

COVERAGE INSIDE

- Alabama's Coker a wild card, 1C
- Split allegiances: Will Gamecock fans support Tigers? 2C
- Clemson fought through key personnel losses, 7C

ON THE WEB

Get complete coverage throughout the game at GreenvilleOnline.com

Confederate flag exhibit under fire, again

Activist, legislators against using state funds

JOSHUA LLOYD
MORNING NEWS

FLORENCE - A Florence community activist and several state representatives say they condemn any type of state funding for a new Confederate flag exhibit in Columbia, while others have said

member, held a news conference at the South Carolina Department of Revenues to denounce the proposal to create a \$3.6 million exhibit for the flag at the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum.

The flag was removed from Statehouse grounds following a contentious notice-and-comment rule-making process

ered that proposal to \$3.6 million.

Moore's decision to hold the conference at the Department of Revenues was deliberate. She said the taxpayers should not be responsible for the cost of the exhibit at any amount.

"They want some of the same people that were enslaved by the racist perpetration of this Confederate flag to pay millions of dollars to give it a new home," Moore said. "We need to put it on the

already paid for by taxpayers."

At least one state representative in Florence and others across the state held the same thought.

"I don't think there should be any state funding to display that flag when there are failing schools, roads that need repairing, and the list goes on and on," said Rep. Terry Alexander, a Florence Democrat. "To redesign an existing museum just for the addition of a flag is

The Post and Courier

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

Monday, January 11, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Tecklenburg to take helm as mayor today

West Ashley revitalization to be among top priorities after Charleston's new leader is sworn in

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

The city of Charleston on Monday will inaugurate John Tecklenburg as mayor, the first person elected from West Ashley to hold that office.

The swearing-in ceremony begins at noon, in front of City Hall. There is a pre-program, which begins at 11:45 a.m. and includes speakers and

music. The public then is welcome to attend a reception in Washington Square.

Tecklenburg, the city's first new mayor in 40 years, will get to work immediately following the festivities, said spokesman Jack O'Toole. First, he will sign an ethics pledge, and then he will meet with city staffers to begin working on a redevelopment plan for West Ashley.

During his campaign, Tecklenburg vowed to use

more of the city's income from hotels and restaurants to create a West Ashley Revitalization Fund to revive and beautify Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Savannah Highway and St. Andrews Boulevard.

West Ashley resident and advocate Charlie Smith said he thinks Tecklenburg being a West Ashley resident bodes well for that largely

Please see **TECKLENBURG**, Page A4



If you go

WHAT: John Tecklenburg's inauguration
WHEN: noon, Monday
WHERE: In front of City Hall, 80 Broad St., Charleston

Restoring our marshes

S.C. aims to build up 'living shorelines' for erosion control

BY BO PETERSEN
bpeters@postandcourier.com

Eighteen inches could be all that's standing between waterfront property owners and the restoration of "living shorelines" that might be the future of the Lowcountry's vanishing marsh.

One of the state regulations in place for building an erosion-control structure along "critical area" shoreline is that it can't extend more than 18 inches beyond the high ground. The rule is workable if you're building a sea wall, a rock revetment or laying riprap.

It's unworkable if you want to restore an actual marsh shoreline, using natural structures such as oyster beds or coir log made from palmettos. The structures are needed to hold marsh plants in place and need to run farther out. Natural marsh, vital to marine life, is disappearing. Man-made marsh could be the answer.

So the S.C. Department of Natural Resources has embarked on a five-year study to find out what sorts of natural materials work best in various environments, and how well they work upstream — essentially as the water gets less salty. The DNR will make recommendations to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control for a rewrite of its rules. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working on similar national standards.

In the Lowcountry it all started, strikingly, with oysters.

Living shorelines are the new buzz among marine biologists in the Southeast — plantings or regrowth held in place by natural materials to restore the marsh by trapping sediment instead of making erosion worse with a hard erosion-control structure that deflects wave and tidal energy to erode the bank alongside.

Some forms of the shorelines already are in use in other regions, and they are being sought by at least some waterfront property owners in South

Please see **MARSHES**, Page A4



Jeff Spahr harvests oysters in Cape Romain, where one of a number of "living shoreline" projects in South Carolina is underway rebuilding oyster reefs.

PROVIDED BY CLAY BOLT OF JEFF SPAHR HARVESTING

N. Chas. mayor criticized over vote

Keith Summey's son a developer for Ingleside project

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

A December vote by North Charleston City Council — which, it turns out, was for naught — has again brought accusations of nepotism to the Lowcountry's most powerful political family.



Elliott Summey

Mayor Keith Summey voted Dec. 17 for an ordinance that allows high-density construction at Ingleside Plantation, which is being developed primarily by Weber USA Corp. Summey's son, Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey, 38, is a vice president with Weber USA.

The mayor's son acknowledged Friday that "there can be a perception it's a conflict" but said Weber does business in several states.

"North Charleston is not the only place I do business, but I do like doing things here because I believe in North Charleston," said the native of the city. "It's frustrating for me because I'm a politician and a developer, and a lot of people think both of those are dirty words."

Please see **MAYOR**, Page A4

Interviews by Penn led to 'El Chapo'

BY E. EDUARDO CASTILLO and KATHERINE CORCORAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican officials say Sean Penn's contacts with drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman helped them track the fugitive down — even if he slipped away from an initial raid on the hideout where the Hollywood actor apparently met him.

Penn's article on Guzman was published late Saturday by Rolling Stone magazine, a day after Mexican marines captured the world's most wanted kingpin in a raid on the city of Los Mochis near the Gulf of California.

Penn wrote of elaborate security precautions, but also said that as he flew to Mexico on Oct. 2 for the meeting, "I see no spy-ing eyes, but I assume they are there."

He was apparently right.

Please see **INTERVIEWS**, Page A6

Inside



SPORTS
Clemson pulls surprise win over No. 16 Louisville, C1

NATION
Obama to target voters in final State of the Union, A6

WORLD
Airborne U.S. B-52 a show of force to North Korea, A6

Gentle pit bull brings comfort

Owner's essay wins prize for local rescue group

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

A woman who bought a dog for protection while jogging had no idea how much he would also heal her inner pain.

Lisa Carroll of Monroe, N.C., a mother of two young children, was brutally attacked while running in her neighborhood in 2006. Her husband, a Charlotte cop, urged her to start running inside on a treadmill. She refused to be intimidated and set out to find a dog.

She looked through the Petfinder website and

Please see **ESSAY**, Page A4



Lisa Carroll and Logan relax on Friday. Carroll wrote about her adoption experience for a contest sponsored by the Petco Foundation. Her essay won \$5,000 in the Animal Rescue category for Valiant Animal Rescue + Relief in Charleston.



Online
To read Lisa Carroll's essay, go to postandcourier.com.

PROVIDED



Sunny
High 52, Low 27.
Complete 5-day forecast, B8

Bridge B7
Business C1
Classified C6
Comics B6,7
Crossword, 86, C10
Editorials B7
Movies B5
Obituaries B2
Scene B1
Sports C1
Sudoku B7
Television B4



Luxury Simplified Retreats
Discounted stay at Folly Beach rental. The View. See A2

The State



GAME DAY!



Watson, Clemson to test Alabama defense, **1B**



Tigers not intimidated by SEC reputation, **4B**



DE Lawson expected to suit up for Clemson, **5B**



The Harman family of Lexington loves Clemson. Tommy Harman sits with his grandchildren, from left, Abbie Duncan, 11, with Cavi Madison Harman, 3, McElson Harman, 4, Jase Harman, 1, and Austin Duncan, 8.

'IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE A CLEMSON TIGER'

After rough years in Gamecock country, local Clemson fans say it's their turn to shine

BY JANET JONES KENDALL
jjkendall@thestate.com

Lexington resident Tommy Harman has not missed a Clemson-Carolina football game in 63 consecutive years. Monday night, the Clemson fan will be in the stands for another game he just couldn't miss.

"We are just beyond thrilled to be able to watch Clemson play in the national championship game," Harman said. "Words just can't describe this feeling. I guess if I had to pick a word I would say 'proud.' There's just so much pride."
Harman has lived in Lexington since he was 2 years old, and — like many Clemson fans might say — it's not easy being a Tiger in the middle of Gamecock country. That's especially so, considering Tiger fans aren't far removed from the five-game losing streak they had going against the Gamecocks until this fall.

"If I'm around Clemson people, I can talk Clemson all day long, but I try



Tommy Harman has been to 63 Clemson-Carolina football games, the first in 1953 when he was 3 years old.

to be respectful to the other side, because they want to win their games and have a good team," said Harman, who developed and established the annual Clemson/Carolina Big Thursday Tailgate event in Lexington seven years ago. "You still have people coming up to you when you wear Clemson stuff, and they'll hold up five fingers for five in a row or they'll walk up to me and say, 'Go Cocks.'"

Last week, Harman was able to respond by showing them his tickets to the College Football National Championship.

The Tigers (14-0) play Alabama

Where to watch the game

Columbia Clemson Club is hosting a national championship viewing party Monday.

When: 8 p.m. Monday

Where: Hickory Tavern, 907 Senate St., in the Vista

Find a list of more places to watch the game on **PAGE 2B**

See a video with this story online at **THESTATE.COM**

(13-1) at 8:30 p.m. in University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. If Clemson wins, it will capture its first national title since the 1981 season.
"All I have to say is it's a great time to be a Clemson Tiger and live in Columbia," said Hannah Pittman, president of the Columbia Clemson Club. "We had a few rough years there while we lost to South Carolina, and they had a great team then. It's been easier

SEE CLEMSON FANS, 7A

MIDLANDS PUBLIC SAFETY

Body cameras slowly roll out

Police agencies must start using body cameras, state law says

Richland sheriff needs \$1.2 million to outfit his deputies

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
gflanagan@thestate.com

It will take about \$1.2 million to outfit the Richland County Sheriff's Department with body-worn cameras, and it's unclear where that money will come from.

But come it must, after state legislators mandated cameras for all South Carolina police agencies.

The Richland County department has been researching body cams for about three years for its 600 deputies, Sheriff Leon Lott said. Richland County has a draft of rules for body cams and, along with other law enforcement agencies throughout the state, has until March 7 to submit its policy for approval to the S.C. Law Enforcement Training Council.

"It's not just as simple as going out and buying a camera and putting it on a deputy," Lott said. "There's a lot more that goes into that and that's where most of the costs come from. Probably the cheapest part is

SEE CAMERAS, 7A



Richland County sheriff's investigator Aubree Taylor has been testing body cameras for the agency.

With body cams, 'I have proof I'm doing my job'

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
gflanagan@thestate.com

Aubree Taylor is a model of efficiency. She stands straight and speaks crisply, no energy or words wasted.

Taylor just recently made investigator at the Richland County Sheriff's Department, and before that, spent about a year and a half testing body-worn cameras for the agency. The department does not yet have the money to outfit deputies.

"It was great for me, because I knew I would have what I needed on camera — if I

SEE TESTING, 7A



Morning News

MONDAY JANUARY 11, 2016



TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny, partly cloudy later.
High 51, low 27.

DETAILS 2A

www.fox43.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents



MATTHEW ROBERTSON/MORNING NEWS

Investigators supervise the recovery of a pickup truck involved Saturday in a series of Florence area shootings and two police pursuits. The second pursuit ended with a wreck on Third Loop Road in Florence, the truck on fire and the suspect in custody.

Shooting suspect charged

From staff reports

FLORENCE — The Florence Police Department on Sunday released the name of the man arrested in connection with a string of shootings in the Florence area Saturday.

The suspect is Andrew M. Pierson, 25, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, according to Florence Police Maj. Carlos Raines.

Pierson was arrested Saturday around 9:40 p.m. after crashing

his pickup truck near College Park Baptist Church on Third Loop Road while attempting to evade police. He fled the scene on foot and was caught shortly after.

The truck burst into flames after the crash and was extinguished by West Florence firefighters, Raines said.

Pierson was injured in the crash and was taken in police custody for treatment to a Florence-area hospital, where he remained as

of midday Sunday.

The events started at about 1:10 p.m. Saturday afternoon with a series of shootings in Florence.

Three vehicles were shot at three Florence locations by the driver of what witnesses said was a silver pickup truck that might have had North Carolina tags on it. The tags might have contained the letter "X" on it, Raines said

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3A

Community, FMU will honor MLK

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
jimbinbo@fox43news.com

FLORENCE — Francis Marion University is hosting a series of commemorative events to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. and his legacy. All events are free and open to the public, beginning today and continuing throughout the month.

The first of the three events is "The Civil Rights Era Exhibit," sponsored by Rogers Library at FMU. The display reflects themes from the PBS documentary "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965." Books, magazines and biographical information on prominent civil rights figures are featured in the display, located in the reference area of Rogers Library. The exhibit will be available for viewing until Jan. 22.

A special screening of select episodes of the "Eyes on the Prize" documentary will be shown on Jan. 21. Showings begin at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Cauthen Educational Media Center's Lowrimer Auditorium. The screening is sponsored by the FMU African-American Faculty and Staff Coalition as well as the FMU departments of history, English and chemistry.

On Thursday, a commemorative march will be held on the FMU campus. Participants will march from Wallace House to the McNair Science Building. The march will begin at 6 p.m. After the walk, the Chapman Auditorium will host "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., A Celebration through the Arts." This event is presented by FMU along with the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and McLeod Health.

Les Echols, community and minority enterprise director for the chamber, said the auditorium events

See **MLK**, Page 4A

The 72-year wait



SHAMIRA MCCRAY/MORNING NEWS

On Christmas Eve, World War II veteran Rudolph Pierce received a Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, Europe-Africa-Middle East Medal with three Campaign Stars, Army Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp and the World War II Victory Medal. He said it took him 72 years to get them.

World War II veteran receives long-overdue medals

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@fox43news.com

FLORENCE — Rudolph Pierce earned medals when he served in the Army in World

soldiers, were lost at the end of the war because of the hectic time. A facility in St. Louis that housed many of the records burned in 1973.

It was a family effort to get Pierce his medals and other

Abuse survivor to share his story

Matthew Sandusky's upcoming talk titled "The Resilient Soul"

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@fox43news.com

FLORENCE — Matthew Sandusky is coming to town.

If that name sounds familiar, you probably recall the scandal surrounding his adopted father, Jerry Sandusky, formerly of the Penn State Nittany Lions' football coaching staff.

The elder Sandusky, 71, probably will spend the rest of his life in prison after being convicted in 2012 of sexually abusing many young boys over the course of 15 years.

The younger Sandusky has said he was abused, too, both by his biological father and by Jerry Sandusky, and was one of many victims who shared in a \$60 million civil settlement by Penn State.

He and his wife, Kim, also formed the nonprofit Peaceful Hearts Foundation. The goal, according to its website, is to "foster an environment where survivors and loved ones can come together to share their experiences and receive compassion, help and support, unconditionally."

Elen Hamilton looks forward to hearing what Matthew Sandusky will have to say when he speaks

See **SANDUSKY**, Page 3A

MORE MLK EVENTS

» **"Positive Changes Will Begin Within Me - My World Too":** From noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at the CRC Vision Center, at 302 Pearl St. in Darlington. The segment is designed for young men and women ages 17 to 28. Attendees are asked to dress in business-casual attire. For more information, call 843-395-0431.

» **Hartsville Community Walk:** 3 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church, 104 E. Home Ave. Participants will walk



IF YOU GO

» **WHAT:** Matthew Sandusky speech
» **WHEN:** 7:15-9 p.m. March 2
» **VIP RECEPTION:** 6 p.m.
» **WHERE:** Florence Civic Center
» **TICKETS:** Available now

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, January 11, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 11 Aiken, S.C. ★ 75¢

INSIDE TODAY



College Football Playoff Championship preview
Sports, 1B



Swinney leads with a smile
Sports, 2B



Saban has led staggering run
Sports, 2B



Dehydration leading cause in muscle cramps
Living on the Go, 1C

AREA DEATHS

Baby Girl Tianna Jones, Augusta, Georgia
Charlie Dennis Hicks, Texas
Charles G. Spencer, North Carolina
Leon W. Sims, Beech Island
Lynelle McManaman Chaput, Aiken
Charles F. Jordan, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Getting a second chance



Aiken clinic provides addicts with help, hope

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU
girardeau@aikenstandard.com

Did you know?

1.4 million people used prescription painkillers non-medically for the first time in the past year.
<http://www.samhsa.gov/oa/oa.htm>

More than 50% of people aged 12 or older in 2011-2012 who used pain relievers for non-medical reasons in the past year got them from a friend or relative.
<http://www.samhsa.gov/oa/oa.htm>

More than 50% of people with a substance problem began smoking, drinking or using other drugs before age 18.
<http://www.samhsa.gov/oa/oa.htm>

Among people between the ages of 12 and 49, the average age of first heroin use was 28.
<http://www.samhsa.gov/oa/oa.htm>

A clinic in Aiken offers help to a large group of people in the area addicted to a drug that has quickly become a problem in Aiken County, evidenced by the sheer number of people who have come seeking help from the clinic since it opened four years ago.

Drug addiction is a disease that is much more common than most realize, said Leigh Anne Bost, clinical counselor with Aiken Treatment Specialists, a clinic that offers a treatment program designed to help people with opiate addictions.

There are people across the nation who are addicted to cocaine, meth, alcohol, prescription pills and even marijuana who seek help at rehab clinics or detox centers; however, opiates are one of the most serious drugs that have worked their way onto the scene in a big way, said Bost.

The issue has become such a problem that most doctors in South Carolina will soon be required to consult a statewide database of patients' medical history as a way to combat the state's rampant prescription painkiller problem.

South Carolina will join 29 states that require doctors or pharmacists to consult a prescription database in at least certain circumstances, according to the National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws.

Bost said more than 1,000 addicts have come to seek help at Aiken Treatment Specialists.

Opiates are some of the more highly addictive drugs available today, with morphine, heroin, codeine and oxycodone being some of the more well-known opiates.

According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, in 2012, 259 million opioid pain medication prescriptions were written, enough for every adult in America to have a bottle of pills.

"Serious opiate addicts tend to be crippled by the drug," Bost explained. "Most opiate addicts will end up losing everything in just a matter of time. The addiction causes people to lose their family, friends and possessions."

Please see CLINK, Page 8A



Clemson fans cheer before the team arrived to play against Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Dec. 31, 2015, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Clemson, Alabama fans prep for game differently

BY STEVE HUMMER
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (TNS)

In many ways, Clemson and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, are as alike as two Moon Pies.

Both are deeply southern outposts with identities wrapped in the colleges they house. And being so deeply southern, it follows that both elevate college football to a level that is just this side of the choir loft.

If you live in either place, chances are you'll know your team's record before your own social security number (and, really, which more accurately defines who you are?).

Their approach, however, to Monday's college football national championship game is a little different, given their respective places in the sport's food chain.

When it has been 34 years between championship possibilities for one team (Clemson) and basically the day before yesterday for the other (the Crimson Tide), there is bound to be slight emotional variances.

As Dabo Swinney, the Clemson coach who schooled at Alabama, put it, "This is their fourth national championship appearance in seven years, and, what they've won 15 already (depending on who's counting). We've got a lonely trophy sitting down there in that case and they've got a family of trophies in Tuscaloosa."

The free market clearly spells out the differences. At the stores where tribal gear is sold, the Clemson merchant is better positioned today than her counterpart in Tuscaloosa.

"We've seen very, very brisk sales," smiled Julie Ibrahim, owner of the Tiger Sports Shop in Clemson. Among the big sellers have been the

Please see GAME, Page 8A

Board: SRS more prepared for emergencies

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasher@aikenstandard.com

The Savannah River Site's two largest contractors have hired more staffers and implemented emergency preparedness actions after a federal safety board reported in September that a reduction in related staff has decreased the site's ability to prepare for potential emergencies.

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board wrote a Dec. 22 letter to Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz stating that the site's heightened awareness of emergency preparedness could also be a benefit

safety issues.

In June, the board reported that Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the site's management and operations contractor, and Savannah River Remediation, the site's liquid waste contractor, had seen significant reductions in staff supporting emergency preparedness.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, or SRNS, staff experienced a 40 percent reduction between fiscal years 2011 and 2014 and also experienced a 70 percent turnover rate over the past five years, according to the group.

SRNS' on-site personnel, including

both internal and external to the company.

Savannah River Remediation, or SRR, experienced an almost 30 percent reduction in its full-time equivalents due to workforce restructuring, according to the safety board. The turnover resulted in a loss of several experienced staff members. As a result, recent hires usually had two years or less of relevant experience, which impacted effectiveness in drill scenarios and other areas, according to the safety board.

Corrective measures have since been taken, including more emergency pre-

SRNS finding 69 opportunities for improvement.

Swinney added that SRNS also has an active joint response agreement in place with emergency responders in the surrounding communities.

SRR spokesperson Amy Joslin said the contractor's Emergency Preparedness Program has conducted more than 100 drills/exercises since January 2013.

"During that period, SRR has ensured that the proficiency of Emergency Response Organization personnel has been maintained," Joslin said.



INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 47, NO. 299

indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

■ ABBEVILLE

Report: Town named one of the best places for young families

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

Consumer finance website NerdWallet considers Abbeville the 18th best place in the state for young families, according to a recent study.

Despite logging only 6 percent young families in the city, Abbeville holds strong in the state with good schools, safety and affordability.

"It seems it's doing well in affordability and safety as well as schooling," Kamran Rosen, marketing analyst for NerdWallet said. "We're assuming young families are on a budget, while also looking for safety and good schools."

The study, which primarily uses U.S. Census data, also used third parties to determine school and crime rates. Abbeville scored a seven of 10 in education. When it comes to risk of crime, Abbeville was considered "safe," which is just shy of "most safe."

"It definitely has that potential, because it's that intersection of those three components important to young families," Rosen said.

Census data, including income growth and median home value, also contributed as Abbeville showed about a 30-percent increase in income growth from 1999-2014, according to the report.

Rosen said Abbeville scored relatively competitive because of high ratings in three of the four heavily weighted components — schools, crime, median home value and percentage of residents married with at least one child under 18.

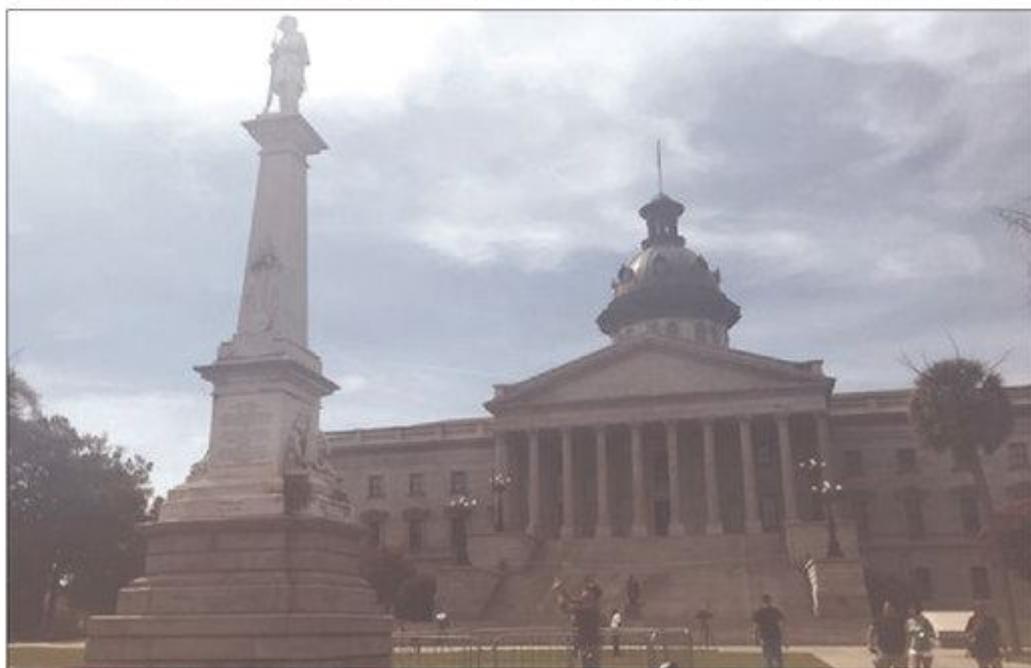
Abbeville missed the latter, comparing its 6 percent to the top 17's average of 24 percent.

Oak Grove, a census-designated place west of Columbia, took the top spot, followed by Fort Mill, Clover, Simpsonville and Charlotte, North Carolina suburb Tega Cay to round out the top five.

The report noted the western part of the state as an

See **ABBEVILLE**, page 4A

BACK IN CONGRESS



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

People visit the statehouse in Columbia. Lawmakers return this week to address multiple issues facing South Carolina.

Flooding, roads major issues going into legislative session

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

As lawmakers return to Columbia this week, a number of issues will be looming when each chamber convenes at noon Tuesday for the next legislative session.

A top issue will be earmarking funds for the state's infrastructure, whether stressed from age or the recent flooding that devastated much of Columbia and the Midlands as a whole.

Flooding, roads

"The big issues are going to be the flooding, and we may exacerbate that issue," said state Rep. Mike Pitts, R-Laurens. "I think how we proceed in dealing with the devastation of the flood will be one of the largest issues that the state deals with this year."

Pitts' fight will come on behalf of farmers, who were affected and lost much of their harvest in October's historic flooding.

Pitts said he wants to make sure the state provides farmers relief for what flood insurance does not cover, since federal law only allows up to 60-percent coverage.

Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, is drafting the Palmetto Farm Aid bill to address those concerns, according to Pitts.

Pitts said Gov. Nikki Haley will likely veto the bill if passed because she thinks flood insurance



MIKE PITTS



CRAIG GAGNON

should cover up to 100 percent of losses and the U.S. Congress will likely take up that issue.

The issue of the state's dilapidated roads, which carries over from last year's session, will likely tie into the flood debate, Pitts said.

"Those two issues, with it being an election year, could dominate the entire session," Pitts said.

State Rep. Craig Gagnon, R-Abbeville, warned against impulsive action.

"You don't want to enact laws that are knee jerk for something that only occurs every 1,000 years, but you want to make sure people are safe and you have policies in place that make sense," Gagnon said.

He gave the example of possible legislation in response to the number of dams that failed during the flood, which caused more damage and led to more flooding.

The Legislature can't make a blanket statement for all dams, Gagnon said, and some, such as farmers with dams on small ponds, need exemptions.

"You have intentions of making things safer for

people, but you have unintended consequences," Gagnon said.

The roads bill passed last session in the House but stalled in the Senate, largely because of state Sen. Tom Davis' filibuster.

"Certainly if the Senate does not pass it, we need to go back and find something that has more support with the Senate," Gagnon said.

Pitts said he has heard from Republicans and Democrats, who would like to use federal money to pay for repairs to roads damaged by flooding and state funds for improvements to those roads.

Instead of putting Band-Aids on, the state could begin the process of absolute repair, he said.

However, the question remains how much or how little the federal government will cover, according to Pitts.

Refugees

Pitts said the Legislature will likely debate whether to block Middle East refugees from being settled in the state by the federal government.

"It's an election year, and that's one of the hottest topics out there," Pitts said.

Pitts said the biggest issue is the federal government not having a proper, full-proof vetting system for refugees.

However, there are certain refugees he would not want to keep from resettlement, such as those who help American soldiers.

See **LEGISLATIVE**, page 4A

Dedication to duty: John Long's career at GCSO marked by hard work, attention to detail

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Takes about 150 employees to



Long's strongest qualities: his organizational skills.

"Anyone who knows me knows I'm an organizational freak," he said, smiling to make a joke on his desk





**JACKPOT FOR
POWERBALL
HITS \$1.3B 4A**



**BEAUFORT-PORT
ROYAL FIRE CHIEF
TO RETIRE 3A**

Beaufort Gazette

MONDAY, January 11, 2016

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 75 cents

CLEMSON vs. ALABAMA

GAME DAY

AT 8:30 P.M. ON ESPN

Clemson's big moment almost never happened



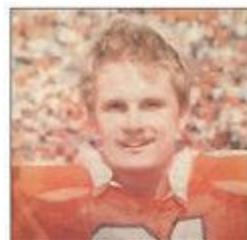
DAVID LAUDERDALE
clauderdale@slindbaclat.com
843-706-8115



Weezie Gibson, of Lady's Island, sits for a portrait at her home with her replica of Clemson University's "Howard's Rock" on Thursday afternoon. Gibson is the daughter of Gene Willimon, who, while working at Clemson in the 1960s, suggested placing the Death Valley, Calif., rock in a prominent location instead of throwing it out.

DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

MORE INSIDE



Bluffton resident Carl Martin, a player on Clemson's 1981 national championship team, shares his thoughts on that magical year and this year's Tigers team **1B**



Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304