

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 5/13/2016 8:37:41 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, May 13, 2016

SC Front Pages – Friday, May 13, 2016



ANGELS CHARGE MINISTRY TO HOLD BENEFIT

FAITH & FAMILY, D1



REGULATIONS COULD IMPACT LOCAL VAPE SHOPS

UPSTATE, C1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, May 13, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN

81°/52° 81°/47° 73°/46°

Complete forecast, B8

SPORTS



Buckley defies big odds on the track

Dorman High junior Eli Buckley has undergone three left knee surgeries during his track and football career only to come back as one of the fastest athletes in school history. He will be in Columbia this weekend for the state track championships. **B1**

UPSTATE

Candidates forum

The Upstate Family Resources Center will host a candidate forum for several of the upcoming races in Spartanburg County. **C1**

CAMPAIGN 2016



California dreamin'

With the primary season's biggest prize in play, Hill-

CAMPAIGN 2016

Trump, Ryan pledge cooperation

By Erica Werner
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Straining to mend their party after months of chaos, Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan declared themselves "totally committed" to working together after a fence-mending personal meeting on Thursday. Ryan praised Trump as "very warm and genuine," and suggested that after initial hesitance he may well end up endorsing the GOP candidate for president.

"We will have policy disputes. There is no two ways about that.

The question is, can we unify on the common core principles that make our party," Ryan said. "And I'm very encouraged that the answer to that question is yes."

And Trump, who used the day to launch a robust charm offensive with members of Congress, broadcast his own enthusiasm over Twitter, saying: "Great day in D.C. with @SpeakerRyan and Republican leadership. Things working out really well! #Trump2016."

The surprisingly fervent show of unity capped a remarkable week

SEE CAMPAIGN, A5



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves as he arrives Thursday for a meeting with House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin at the Republican National Committee Headquarters in Washington. **ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

SPARTANBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Haley discusses roads, education



Gov. Nikki Haley was the keynote speaker at the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Spartanburg graduation ceremony on Thursday at the Country Club of Spartanburg.

PHOTOS BY JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHJ.COM

Governor

PROJECT MAGELLAN

Michelin planning distribution center in county

'Substantial' number of jobs involved; tax breaks sought

By Chris Lavender
and Bob Montgomery
Staff writers

Michelin and a California-based development firm are seeking tax breaks from Spartanburg County to build a distribution center.

County officials have been discussing tax incentives with Michelin and Panattoni Development Company of Newport Beach, Calif., for the center, dubbed "Project Magellan," according to Spartanburg County Council documents. The project is expected to create "a substantial number" of new jobs over the next five years.

County council approved the first reading of the agreement, and a second reading is scheduled for Monday.

According to the agreement, Michelin and Panattoni asked the county to "assist in the acquisition, construction

The Post and Courier

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Friday, May 13, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Group pushing sales tax for road projects

Berkeley ex-supervisor leads Charleston County effort, which might include I-526 as priority

BY DIANE KNICH
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A new nonprofit has started to raise money and collect feedback in hopes of convincing Charleston County voters to raise their sales tax this fall.

Jim Rorier, former Berkeley

County supervisor and former chair of the S.C. Department of Transportation commission, is leading the group, formed last month to place a new half-cent sales tax referendum on the Nov. 8 ballot.

The group, Charleston County

plans to raise money to fund its efforts, and Rorier said he will be paid from what's raised. Rorier, an independent consultant, said the group has an online petition called "Complete the Penny" on change.org, which so far has garnered 231 signatures.

It also has sent out emails asking people to vote on what they think is the most important local road project. County Council Chairman Elliott Summey supports the plan, Rorier said.

In 2004, county voters approved a half-cent sales tax

that's expected to bring in \$1.3 billion by 2030. But the plan failed twice before it ultimately was approved. Rorier said he has two partners so far: Rhett Reidenbach, president of the Revere group and

Please see TAX, Page A6

PC Poll
Are you in favor of a half-cent sales tax to fix roads in Charleston County? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

'We are outraged'

Pleas for gun reform are heard as Senate plans hearing on 'Charleston loophole' bills



Alana Simmons (right) holds hands with Hamilton Grant during the Hands Around the Statehouse Rally on Thursday in Columbia. Simmons is the granddaughter of Pastor Daniel Simmons, one of nine victims of last year's shooting at Emanuel AME Church.

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
and GAVIN JACKSON
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gjackson@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — As the granddaughter of a man gunned down last year at Emanuel AME Church stood on the Statehouse steps pleading for gun reform, a Senate committee chairman inside pledged to hold a hearing for a bill that could extend the waiting period when purchasing firearms.

Pickens Republican Sen. Larry Martin, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, agreed to take public testimony this summer on proposed bills that could extend the time allowed for running a background check when purchasing a handgun from three days to up to 28.

pc Multimedia
To see a video and more photos from the rally, go to postandcourier.com/multimedia.

Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston, who sponsors one of the background check bills, said he was encouraged the legislation finally was going to get a hearing, even though there is no way for it to become law this year. "It is the will of the people to have background checks addressed," Kimpson said Thursday afternoon at the Hands Around the Statehouse Rally before engaging in a floor debate with Martin over his refusal to schedule a hearing on

Please see RALLY, Page A4



Lori Feehan (from left), Barbara Fry, Cheryl Pitts and Mary Ellen Raghaed of Charleston listen to a speaker during the Hands Around the Statehouse Rally in Columbia. The names on their T-shirts represent victims of the Emanuel AME Church shooting.

Obama planning decree on restrooms

Aims to protect transgender students from discrimination

BY JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
and MATT APUZZO
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — In the middle of a legal fight with North Carolina over transgender rights, the Obama administration is planning to issue a sweeping decree telling every public school district in the country to allow transgender students to use the bathrooms that match their gender identity.

The letter to school districts that will go out Friday describing what they should do to ensure that none of their students are discriminated against, signed by officials of the departments of Justice and Education, does not have the force of law. But it contains an implicit threat: Schools that do not abide by the Obama administration's interpretation of the law could face lawsuits or a loss of federal aid.

The move is certain to draw fresh criticism, particularly from Republicans, that the federal government is wading into local matters and imposing its own values on communities across the country that may not agree.

Please see RESTROOMS, Page A10

Sanford steps up for sneakers

Opposes plan to limit troops to one brand

BY EMMA DUMAİN
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WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford has a new target in his campaign for free markets and individual liberty: Sneakers.

The South Carolina Republican is fighting bipartisan efforts to compel the Department of Defense to buy all of its athletic footwear from New Balance.

Proponents of instituting the new policy say it would allow the Pentagon to comply with a longtime law requiring it to purchase American-made apparel for recruits. Sneakers have been exempt from this mandate because it's been so difficult to find a U.S. company to produce an appropriate product, but New England-based New Balance has stepped up to the plate.

Critics such as Sanford say service members shouldn't be forced to wear a certain type of sneakers, arguing it's a matter of personal preference.

Please see SNEAKERS, Page A4

Inside

LOCAL

Family of librarian killed in Emanuel AME shooting launches literacy effort. A5

BUSINESS

Tire recycler says it will bring 200 jobs to Berkeley. B1

SPORTS

Chris George wants to end Lincoln era with gold medal. C1

Solicitor: Decisions not based on race

Wilson defends way juries were selected

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson took the witness stand Thursday and fought off allegations that she has purposefully removed potential jurors from trials because they were black.

Her testimony came in a post-conviction hearing for William O. Dickerson Jr., who was sentenced to



Wilson

death in a James Island man's 2006 torture and slaying. It marked the first time that Wilson has been compelled to take the stand in such a proceeding, though officials said the move is not a rare one for prosecutors. Her testimony also came while Wilson is staged to prosecute two high profile murder cases with racial undertones: former police officer Michael Slager in the

shooting of Walter Scott and a second white supremacist Dylan Roof in the slayings of nine parishioners at Emanuel AME Church.

During the proceeding Thursday in downtown Charleston, Dickerson's attorneys sought to show how few white defendants she has tried in her career — about two — and to highlight racial disparities among prosecutors who have worked in her office. In an office of nearly 40 prosecutors in recent years, an average of two have been black, she testified.

Please see WILSON, Page A6



Chance of storms.
High 88, Low 63.
Complete 5-day
forecast. B10

Bridge...B9 Crosswords...B8, B8 Movies...B7
Business...B1 Dear Abby...B7 Obituaries...B4
Classified...B1 Editorials...A3 Sports...C1
Comics...B8-9 Local...A2 Television...B6

Charleston Deals today

Deep Water Vineyard
\$5 for Two for Tour and Tasting of 5 Varietals and 2 Complimentary Wine Glasses. See A2

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

THE JOY OF WINNING NEVER GETS OLD FOR RIVER BLUFF'S SAVITZ



River Bluff soccer coach Phil Savitz talks to one of his players during their playoff game Thursday against Ashley Ridge.

BY LOU BEZJAK
bezjak@thestate.com

Thad Miller doesn't see many differences in River Bluff boys soccer coach Phil Savitz in the three-plus decades he has known him. Miller was an all-American at Irmo and played on Savitz's first team to reach a state championship game in 1981. Thirty-five years later, the two are reunited again as Savitz asked Miller, a former head coach at Chapin and assistant at Irmo, to join his staff at River Bluff this season.

MORE INSIDE

A look at the four Midlands teams in soccer state title games, 1B

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: Video of Savitz on making state title game.

The Gators go for their first state championship Saturday when they take on Clover in the 4A title game at Irmo High School.

"I have a picture when I played with him with mustache and curly hair, so other than physical changes he is still the same," Miller said.

SEE SAVITZ, 6A

SCHSL SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

At Irmo High School

Admission \$10

FRIDAY

CLASS A BOYS

Banberg-DeHart vs. St. Joseph's, 3 p.m.

CLASS 2A GIRLS

Christ Church vs. Bishop England, 5 p.m.

CLASS 2A BOYS

Bishop England vs. Indian Land, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

CLASS 3A GIRLS

Chapin vs. Hilton Head, 11:30 a.m.

CLASS 3A BOYS

Chapin vs. Myrtle Beach, 1:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A GIRLS

Lexington vs. J.L. Mann, 3:30 p.m.

CLASS 4A BOYS

River Bluff vs. Clover, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY MAY 13 2016

\$1.00

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[TWITTER.COM/THESTATE](https://twitter.com/thestate)



TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY, STORMS POSSIBLE HI 87 LO 59
YESTERDAY: HI 93 LO 69 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
FORECAST, DC

The State



SPRING EDUCATION GUIDE

The State's listing of higher education options in South Carolina includes public and private colleges and universities, community and technical colleges, graduate schools, and schools offering specialized degrees and certificates.

INSIDE TODAY

POLITICS

TRUMP MEETS WITH LEADERS

Billionaire makes rounds on Capitol Hill, 4A; Plus, Ariail's take on Trump's search for a veep, 2C



GOVERNOR'S CUP

RUNNERS TO WATCH

BACKGROUND CHECKS

GOP leader promises a hearing on gun bill



At a rally, Chantal McKelvin of Columbia holds a photo of her brother, Nathaniel McKelvin III, who was shot and killed in 2013.

Proposal would tighten background checks

Bill stems from June's Emanuel AME massacre of nine parishioners

Rally outside State House urges end to 'Charleston loophole'

als.

In response, Kimpson threatened to block a proposal that would allow Georgians with concealed weapon permits to carry their weapons in South Carolina. However, after Martin's promise, senators agreed

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: Video, more pictures from Thursday's pro-gun-control rally at the State House

and posters as the names of S.C. gun-violence victims were read



SPORTS FINISHING HIS RUN



METRO Sippin' in Simpsonville tonight

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,
MAY 13, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY TRUMP, RYAN PLEDGE TO WORK TOGETHER PAGE 1B

State Senate candidates line up to fight Bright

MICHAEL BURNS

MBURNS@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

GREER - Three challengers for the state Senate seat covering District 12 worked to differentiate themselves during a candidates' forum Thursday night in Greer, but the starkest lines they drew highlighted opposition to incumbent Lee Bright, who's become one of the most well-known and controversial politicians holding office in South Carolina.

Lisa Scott, the mayor of Duncan, David McCraw, a Boiling Springs native

and restaurant owner, and Scott Talley, a Spartanburg attorney and former member of the state House, agreed on a number of positions. They called for legislators' income disclosure as part of ethics reform, and they called for an override of Gov. Nikki Haley's promised veto of a bill to provide special aid to farmers who lost crops to historic floods last year.

They also agreed the state would be best served if Bright, who's held the seat since 2008, was out of office.

Bright did not attend the forum held at the Cannon Centre in Greer. It was or-

ganized by *The Greenville News* and Chambers Of Commerce in Greenville, Greer, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest.

State Senate District 5 incumbent Tom Corbin didn't attend, either, but a challenger for his seat, Landrum attorney John B. White Jr., did, as did four candidates for Greenville County Council, District 18 incumbent Joe Baldwin and District 21 contenders Lance Byars, Stacy Kuper and Rick Roberts.

A complete replay of the forum is

See CANDIDATES, Page 5A



LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Candidates participated in a forum Thursday night at the Cannon Centre in Greer.



LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Jennifer Janeiro, owner of Bone and Ink, works on an ink drawing in a studio at her home in Pendleton on Wednesday. Janeiro will be participating in Artisphere for the first time this year.

ARTISPHERE BIGGER AND BETTER

PAUL HYDE PHYDE@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Jennifer Janeiro always loved art but never thought she could make a living at it. Until she discovered pen-and-ink drawing about four years ago.

The Pendleton resident creates minutely detailed portraits of people and pets that vibrate with personality and life.

"I can spend hours drawing and not realize how time has passed," Janeiro said.

Today through Sunday, Janeiro, 28, can be found in Booth No. 129 as one of a record 135 artists from around the country participating in Artisphere.

Greenville's big open-air celebration of the visual arts, rated as one of the finest in the nation, also will feature dozens of food vendors, music groups and street performers — as well as 600 volunteers who keep everything running.

Artisphere, presented by TD Bank, is expected to bring tens of thousands of art and music

GET MORE

Turn to eGreenville for the full Artisphere schedule and go to GreenvilleOnline.com for extensive coverage all weekend.



Hearing promised on gun bill to expand checks

TIM SMITH

TSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA - Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Larry Martin of Pickens promised Thursday there will be a hearing this summer on legislation to expand background checks used to purchase guns.

His announcement came as those supporting gun reforms expressed frustration at the lack of any hearings this year on gun reform bills while lawmakers have repeatedly passed gun rights bills.

On Thursday, the Senate voted 36-5 to set a bill for debate that would recognize the holders of Georgia concealed weapons permits in South Carolina, a move that would also allow South Carolina concealed weapons permit holders to carry their guns in Georgia.

Sen. Marlon Kimpson, a Charleston Democrat, took to the floor before the vote to explain why he was opposing that bill and to voice his frustration that Martin had declined to grant any hearing on background checks legislation.

He said 80 percent of South Carolinians surveyed support expanded background checks.

"I'm up here doing the bidding and business of the people, Republicans and Democrats, who want us to take gun reform in South Carolina seriously," he said.

Kimpson said if the Senate wants to debate the Georgia reciprocity bill "we're going to take some time to go through the Georgia statute," a reference to the fact that Georgia does not require firearms training as South Carolina does to obtain a concealed weapons permit.

Martin apologized for not addressing Kimpson's hearing request sooner and said he would set a hearing this summer on the bill, after the Legislature adjourns.

"I don't think that does any harm to let folks come in to thoughtfully testify," he said.

Martin, who opposes the expanded background checks legislation, told the Senate that had he set the issue for a hearing earlier this year, he would

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County's News Leader Since 1893

50 CENTS

FRIDAY MAY 13, 2016

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scnow.com

New Darlington Walmart draws crowd for grand opening



Darlington Walmart manager Kevin Lane (middle) stands onstage before the Darlington High School chorus just before a grand-opening ceremony Wednesday morning.

BY JOE PERRY
BHMEDIA

DARLINGTON — Letha Martin was a little excited about the Wednesday grand opening of the new Walmart. "I got here at 4:30 this morning," she said with a smile just before the celebration kicked off at 7:30 a.m. "First one here. This is a good turnout — we're very blessed."

She and her aunt Sadie Craig were part of the huge crowd that showed up to watch Darlington High School's color guard, chorus and marching band take part in an event that marked a huge boost to the county's workforce and retail scene.

Following the presentation of the colors, the chorus and band played the national anthem. Mayor Gloria Hines first thanked God before proclaiming it as "a great day for Darlington."

"I feel like we got a new toy in town," she said. "We are excited to have our very first Walmart that we can call our own."

She thanked the store's manager, Kevin Lane, and everyone who had something to do with bringing Walmart to Darlington and gave a special shoutout to her predecessor, Tony Watkins.

"You know what? I cried a little bit yesterday," she said as she recalled

15 years of passing a formerly undeveloped area. "But I kept praying, because I knew that God would deliver."

The doors might be a little different, she joked, riffing on the new configuration of the entrance, "but it's still super," and open 24 hours a day.

Lane said last week that 220 people have been hired to staff the store, which is still looking to add to its workforce, and Hines praised them on Wednesday morning as "awesome associates."

"We just want to thank Walmart for coming," she said.

See WALMART, Page 5A

City of Hartsville Council OKs budget with tax decrease

BY JIM FAILE
jfaile@hartsvillemessenger.com

Hartsville City Council gave first-reading approval to a new general fund budget Tuesday that officials say will lower property taxes in the city in the next fiscal year.

City officials attribute the decrease in taxes in part to an increase in tax collection rates. Property taxes will decrease 3 percent or 4.27 mills with total revenues from all sources projected at \$9.9 million for the coming budget year compared to \$9.2 million for the current year.

General fund property tax revenues are projected at almost \$2.7 million versus just more than \$2.5 million for the current year, Chief Financial Officer Shannon Morrison told council during a work session on May 3.

Among other things, the new budget will allow for a 2 percent cost of living increase for city employees and sets aside \$60,000 for merit bonuses for employees, Morrison said.

The budget includes funding for capital expenditures, some of which are covered by grants, as well as \$230,000 for a contingency fund.

Council is expected to take up the budget again for a public hearing and a final vote on second reading at its regular monthly meeting in June.

DARLINGTON COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE



PHOTOS BY JIM FAILE/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER



The 22nd annual Relay for Life of Darlington County to benefit the American Cancer Society took place May 7 at Byerly Park in Hartsville. The event began with opening ceremonies and with cancer survivors leading off the survivor's lap and concluded that evening with a luminaria ceremony. The day featured special attractions, entertainment, games for children and food. The event's presenting sponsor was Nucor Steel — Darlington with Gold Sponsors Sonoco and the YMCA of Hartsville.



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A spaghetti fundraiser is being held today to help with the cost of sending Stone Martin and Monica



Fundraisers to help musically talented students attend camps

From staff reports:

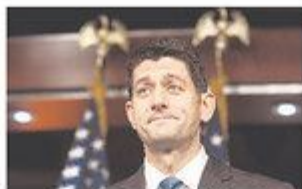
A fundraiser to help Stone Martin and Monica Saxton, two talented Hartsville students, realize their dreams of pursuing their musical careers is being held today at Missions for Christ Church in Hartsville. This will be

tin and Saxton sing live from 4-7 p.m. The eat-in price will increase by \$4 for the performance.

The two have been accepted to an a cappella camp in Los Angeles, hosted by the world renowned group Pentatonix. This is a very limited camp. Can-

NATION

Donald Trump and Paul Ryan pledge to work to unite GOP 6A



BUSINESS

As incomes shrink, so does the middle class in 9 of 10 cities 8B



FRIDAY MAY 13 2016

75¢

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BLUFFTON

THE ISLAND PACKET

FATAL DIVING EXPEDITION

Company has no business licenses

County, city officials have no record of a current business license for Sea Island Divers

None of the divers on the expedition had a hobby diver license, required by law for those searching state waterways for artifacts and fossils

BY WADE LIVINGSTON
wlivingston@islandpacket.com

The charter company that sponsored the diving expedition that claimed the life of Tennessee man Saturday in Beaufort does not have a current business license in the county. Jason Owen, owner of Sea Island Divers, took four men on

a diving expedition in search of shark teeth in the Broad River. During the dive, Brian Owens, 57, an experienced diver from Johnson City, Tenn., died in what an autopsy showed was an accidental drowning.

Sea Island Divers does not have a current business license in Beaufort, either with the city or the county, nor does it have a license in Bluffton, Hilton Head

Island or Port Royal.

The United States Coast Guard is also investigating the charter's credentials. Diving for shark teeth is a popular hobby, one that requires a special license. It appears none of the men on Saturday's expedition had that license.

Five attempts were made to contact Owen by phone, and three messages for him were sent to the Sea Island Divers Facebook page during the past two days. He did not respond to any of those requests. He was also not at Sea Island Divers'.

SEE COMPANY, 7A

VIDEO

For video of a Hilton Head Island-based diver talking about diving rules, click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.

OKATIE

Property at center of dispute purchased

Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Program, Port Royal Sound Foundation bought and will manage 95-acre property

Mobley tract on Chesapeake River center of annexation, development dispute 10 years ago

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com

A Port Royal property in Okatie once at the center of an annexation and development dispute will be shielded from development.

The 95-acre Mobley tract near the Chesapeake River will be bought and managed by the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands program and Port Royal Sound Foundation. The county is paying \$2.5 million and the foundation is contributing \$800,000 to buy the property from Charleston developer Lytleton Partners.

The county will have a 75 percent interest and the foundation a 25 percent interest in the property, Rural and Critical Lands administrator Lisa Lord said Thursday. The property is directly across S.C. 170 from the Port Royal Sound Foundation Maritime Center and can be used for foundation research, she said.

In 2006, the Coastal Conservation League sued the town of Port Royal, the developers and property owners over the property's annexation and zoning. In the resulting settlement, the property was annexed but the density chopped from 250 homes to 125.

"This has been a very controversial piece of land for a long time," Lord said.

The purchase has the support of the town, which, since annexing Mobley and nearby Rose Island, has agreed to follow a northern Beaufort County growth plan with "more sensible boundaries," town manager Van Willis said.

Conservationists lauded the purchase for protecting the Port Royal Sound and Chesapeake River. Homebuilding giant D.R. Horton was thought to be interested in the property, Lord said.



Brig. Gen. Terry V. Williams renews his oath of enlistment during a promotion ceremony on May 27, 2014.

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT PARRIS ISLAND

Parris Island commander relinquishing role in June

Brig. Gen. Austin Renforth will take over command during ceremony June 10

Williams led Marine Corps Recruit Depot for two years

Williams' departure planned, not result of recent incidents on Parris Island

Marine Corps Training Command in Quantico, Va.

The ceremony will be at 2 p.m. June 10 at Parris Island's All Weather Training Facility. Invitations to the ceremony were delivered by email this week.

The change of command was planned and not the result of recent incidents at the depot, spokesman Capt. Gregory Carroll said Thursday.

Thursday.

Brig. Gen. Terry Williams had been in command of Basic

Installations and Logistics, a position currently held by Maj. Gen. Vincent A. Cogliandro.

Williams was the Depot's first black commander, having replaced its first female commander, Brig. Gen. Lori Reynolds, in 2014.

Before overseeing recruit training at Parris Island, Williams was the Marine Corps' public affairs director.

He has been in the Marine Corps since being commissioned as an officer in 1986 after graduating from UCLA, according to his biography on Parris Island's website.

During his tenure at Parris Island, Williams presided over the Corps' centennial celebration this past October, celebrated 220,000 Marines ap-

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com

the Sumter ITEM

SCIENCE

Winter death rate for honeybees spikes after recent drop A5

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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Transgender debate comes home to roost

Sumter School Board will allow students to choose rest rooms

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROVSKY

konstantin@theitem.com

Sumter School District Board of Trustees approved second reading of a policy Monday night that would allow transgender students to use rest rooms, locker rooms and other facilities of their choice.

Third reading will be held on June 13.

The model policy, called Policy JBAB-Student Gender and Orientation, was provided by South Carolina School Boards Association, said Superintendent Frank Baker.

If approved, it will go into effect in the 2016-17 school year and encompass all students kindergarten through grade 12.

The policy states "a student who has been identified as transgender under these guidelines should be permitted to use the resources assigned to the gender which the student consistently asserts at school."

Baker said the key word in the policy is the word "consistently."

"That word rules out the possibility of a student misusing the policy," he said. "In the rare instance that does occur, however, disciplinary action will be taken."

Disciplinary action could range from out-of-school suspension to expulsion, he said.

Baker said transgender students do not have to present proof of documentation, as that would violate their constitutional rights.

The policy also states that a transgender student who expresses a need for privacy "will be provided with reasonable alternative facilities or accommodations," in both rest rooms and locker rooms.

Rules for locker rooms requires schools to consider a number of factors, such as: safety and comfort of all students, transgender student's preference, student privacy, ages of students and available facilities.

The word "consistently" is also used in the section on locker rooms.

"A transgender student will not be required to use a locker room that conflicts with the gender identity consistently asserted at the school," the policy states.

In the dress code section, the policy states that transgender students may dress in accordance with their "consistently" asserted gender identity.

Discussion and voting on the policy was done in open session, as required by law, Baker said.

Baker said professional development on the subject will be provided to administrators and support staff in the summer.

A policy for facility uses for transgender employees will be discussed at a later date, he said.

Operation Smackdown

Dozens facing charges for drugs, guns and prostitution



ABRAHAM



BALLARD



BOONE



BOYD



CALVIN



CLEA



DAVIS



EAGLIN



EARP



ECK



FORCIER



FRALEY



HARRIETT



HAWKEY



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J. JACKSON



MCCOY



MAYRANT



MELETTE



MOBLEY



MOSES



MOYE



MYERS



PRINGLE



PRINGLE



RIVERA



SLATER



SPRATLEY



STUKES



TOMLIN



VANCE



J.C. WILLIAMS



J.G. WILLIAMS



C. WILSON



J. WILSON



WITHERSPOON

Arrests include physician, active duty military and school district employee

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Sumter County Sheriff's Office arrested four U.S. Army personnel stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, a doctor, a deacon, a Sumter School District employee and an insurance agent for solicitation of prostitution during a recent drug sting.

Those individuals facing solicitation of prostitution charges include: John Myers, U.S. Army ITT technician; Troy Bruce Eck, U.S.

Army Command Sergeant; Andre Moye, U.S. Army; Geezel Rivera, U.S. Army; Dr. Thomas Hawkey of Internal Medicine Associates; Robert Pringle, a deacon at Jehovah's Witness Church; James Boone, Sumter Career and Technology Center teacher; and James Wilson, an insurance agent with Universal Benefits Inc.

Their arrests were part of a more extensive drug sting operation where a total of 36 people have been arrested so far.

According to information released from the sheriff's office, the weeks-long sting, referred to as Operation Smackdown, focused on drug activity throughout the county in an attempt to stamp out an apparent rise of heroin sales.

The sheriff's office thinks recent rise in heroin distribution has also led to the rise in sales of Fentanyl, a potentially deadly "fake heroin" type of drug.

SEE STING, PAGE A9



Morning News

FRIDAY MAY 13, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly cloudy,
a 1-storm in spots.
High 88, low 58.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Joseph Weston shows off his degree at the Florence-Darlington Technical College commencement exercises Thursday at the Florence Civic Center.



SHAMIRA MCCRAY/MORNING NEWS

FDTC graduates largest class yet

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Out of the 530 graduates who attended the Florence-Darlington Technical College commencement exercises Thursday at the Florence Civic Center, the majority of them fit into three categories named by FDTC

INSIDE

► Florence-Darlington Tech to announce bond counsel. Story, **Page 3A**.

President Bed P. Dillard III: first in family to graduate, employee or parent.

When asked to stand if they fit into either of the categories at the Thursday graduation, nearly the en-

tire class stood.

"I think everyone in the graduating class stood," Dillard said to the crowd Thursday evening. "It just demonstrates the tenacity and persistence that this class has in understanding how valuable education is."

Although only 530 graduates were able to attend the ceremony, another 333

were part of the class. Dillard said the class of 2016 is probably the largest graduating class in the history of the college.

"We know each of you've worked extremely hard, and you've stayed the course, and we celebrate your success this evening," Dillard said.

See **GRADUATE**, Page 3A

Primary registration deadlines have arrived

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — If you want to vote in any of the Pee Dee's June 14 primaries, you have until Saturday to register for that election.

Since winners of many of the primaries in the Pee Dee will not face cross-party opposition in the November general election, June's primary will be a decisive vote for those seats.

State law requires voter registration one month before the election in which you want to cast a vote.

Here is how to register:

Florence voters can visit the Florence County Voter Registration and Election Commission at 219 Third Loop Road to register in person before 5 p.m. today.

Register online at scvotes.org. Online registration requires a S.C. driver's license or DMV ID. If you have moved, you must first update your address with the DMV.

Request a voter registration by mail application from the County Board of Voter

See **PRIMARY**, Page 5A

GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES

► The Morning News sent questionnaires to candidates who are involved in contests races for the primaries. To see the responses that have come in so far, visit scnw.com/news/election_2016/questionnaire_responses/



SPURS UP

Meet the new coach



PHOTOS BY NIGAN MAY/MORNING NEWS

Sherry and Lenard Halms have their photo taken with Will Muschamp (left), the new University of South Carolina football coach, before his talk Thursday at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology Center on the Florence-Darlington Technical College campus.

Gamecock fans excited about Muschamp's energy, recruiting

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

More in Sports:

► Muschamp: Winning recruiting battle in South Carolina is 'job one.' Story, **Page 1D**.

FLORENCE — A large, garnet and black bus pulled to a stop Thursday in front of the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology Center at Florence-Darlington Technical College.

For South Carolina Gamecock fans, it meant one thing: Will Muschamp had arrived. A few cautious fans approached the "Boom Bus,"

hoping to catch a glimpse of the new USC head football coach, who made a stop in Florence for the Spurs Up tour.

The event was hosted by the Gamecock Club. It gave Muschamp a chance to introduce himself and update fans on the coaching and roster changes.

With "Sandstorm" blasting, a sea of garnet and black outfits

and a cheerful Cocky showing off his finest dance moves, it almost felt like Williams-Brice stadium — almost.

If Gamecock fans were apprehensive about the Muschamp hire, they did not show it Thursday evening.

"Big fan," some said.

See **COACH**, Page 3A

NURSES OF THE YEAR

FLORENCE

Leslie Nesmith was recognized Thursday as the Nurse of the Year at Carolinas Hospital System. Now an assistant nurse manager, she has worked



FLORENCE

Fernando Solis was recognized Thursday as the Nurse of the Year at McLeod Regional Medical Center. He was lauded for his strong work ethic



Camlin Moore

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