

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 1/17/2014 10:17:23 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, January 17, 2014

SC Front Pages – Friday, January 17, 2014

GET READY TO RUN DOWNTOWN

SPORTS, 1C



The Greenville News

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FRIDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

METRO

Advocates for people with mental illness dispute prison improvements, 1B

FINAL EDITION

Senate delivers \$1.1T spending bill

Vote was 72-26; Obama expected to sign measure in time to keep government running

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress sent President Barack Obama a \$1.1 trillion government spending bill Thursday, easing the harshest effects of last year's automatic budget cuts after tea party critics chastised by October's partial shutdown mounted only a faint protest.

The Senate voted 72-26 for the measure, which cleared the

House a little more than 24 hours earlier on a similarly lopsided vote. Obama's signature on the bill was expected in time to prevent any interruption in government funding Saturday at midnight.

The huge bill funds every agency of government, pairing increases for NASA and Army Corps of Engineers construction projects with cuts to the Internal Revenue Service and foreign aid. It pays for implemen-



Sen. Barbara Mikulski



Rep. Harold Rogers

tation of Obama's health care law; a fight over implementing "Obamacare" sparked tea party Republicans to partially shut the government down for 16 days last October.

Also included is funding for

PENSION CUT EXEMPTION

One provision in the \$1.1 trillion spending bill that Congress has passed exempts disabled veterans and surviving military spouses from a pension cut enacted last month.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, signaled in a brief hallway conversation with The Associated Press that he would oppose a broader drive to repeal the entire pension provision, which saves \$6 billion over the coming decade by reducing the annual cost-of-living adjustment for working-age military retirees by 1 percentage point.

tighter regulations on financial markets, but at levels lower than the president wanted.

The compromise-laden leg-

islation reflects the realities of divided power in Washington

See BUDGET, Page 3A

PRE-CLEARANCE

Effort seeks to revive voting act

Plan wouldn't impact state immediately

By Mary Orndorff Troyan
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A proposal to revive a law that required certain states to prove their election procedures weren't discriminatory wouldn't immediately affect some Deep South states with a history of suppressing minority voting, including South Carolina.

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., and Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., introduced legislation Thursday that would breathe new life into the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which the Supreme Court partially struck down last year.

In a case brought by Shelby County, Ala., the justices threw out the four-decade-old formula that had determined which states had to get federal permission — or pre-clearance — before making any changes affecting voting or elections. The formula targeted all or parts of 15 states with a long history of disenfranchising minority voters, including South Carolina and Alabama.

Under the new proposal, which has a long way to go before becoming law, only states with at least five voting-rights violations in the last 15 years

See VOTING, Page 3A



Daryn Zongrone, founder of The Film House, is looking to create an independent movie theater on McBee Avenue. HEIDI HELBRUNNSTAFF

REEL TIME

23-year-old looks to bring movies back downtown

By Lyn Riddle | Staff writer | lriddle@greenvillenews.com



Zongrone has been working with multiple people while developing her plan, including a Greenville couple who at one time had worked on a similar concept. HEIDI HELBRUNNSTAFF

Now, if Daryn Zongrone has her way, downtown will once again have a movie theater.

INSIDE

GAMECOCK FOR LIFE?

Spurrier's \$4 million deal includes an offer to remain with USC as an adviser when he's done coaching. **C1**

The State

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

Family killed in murder-suicide identified

Friends say they do not understand what led religious man to turn violent

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
noellphillips@thestate.com

A photo shows a smiling family wearing their Sunday best while standing on the front porch of a recently bought home.

The happiness in that Facebook picture – and dozens of others posted on the social media site – is how friends and acquaintances knew the Miller family.

And people who talked Thursday about that family said they don't understand what would have led the father, 38-year-old Sheddric Byron Miller, to shoot and kill his wife and two children before



A picture from social media website Facebook shows Sheddric Miller, his wife, Kia Von Miller, and their children, Kyler and Syrai.

turning a gun on himself. "I'm sick to my stomach," said Tammy Doctor, who owns a beauty salon next to a barber shop that Miller owned. "He never showed one sign. I can't see it."

Richland County Coroner Gary Watts released a short report Thursday identifying Miller, his wife, 28-year-old Kia Von Mill-

SEE KILLINGS PAGE A6



CONCEALED WEAPONS

Bill letting guns in bars, restaurants close to law

Legislation clears Senate and should get House OK

INSIDE

Bill would

By JAMIE SELF
jsself@thestate.com

Action urged now for S.C.'s mentally ill inmates

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

South Carolina mental health advocates are urging the state prison system to follow a judge's order and draw up a detailed plan within 180 days to reform the S.C. Department of Corrections mental illness programs – even if Corrections appeals the judge's decision.

"They have to have a plan to make things happen," said Bill Lindsey, the executive director of the S.C. chapter of the Na-

USC BASKETBALL

MCGUIRE: THE MAN, THE MEMORIES

USC LEGENDS WEEKEND

What: Former Gamecocks players and fans will honor former coach Frank McGuire.

Who: Alex English, Kevin Joyce and Brian Winters among players scheduled to attend.

Where: Colonial Life Arena

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m.: Street topping ceremony

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

3:15-3:45 p.m.: Legends will sign autographs on the concourse

4 p.m.: Ceremony honoring legends on the court

4:30 p.m.: USC vs. Ole Miss

GOGAMECOCKS.COM

Photo galleries: Frank McGuire and USC legends

Video: Preview of the weekend from David Cloninger

Legends Weekend puts a spotlight on famed coach and his players

By DAVID CLONINGER
dcloninger@thestate.com

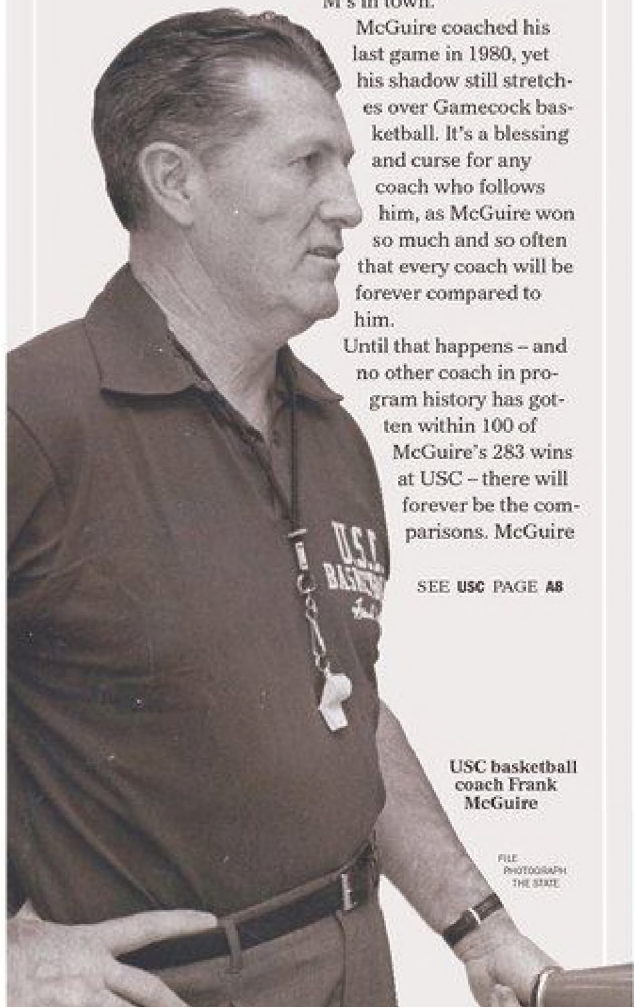
Frank Martin hadn't completed his first sentence before he heard, and saw, what he was up against.

Martin was being introduced in the Frank McGuire Club at Colonial Life Arena. Pictures of the Irishman, hair slicked back and cufflinks twinkling, surrounded him. As Martin spoke of bringing South Carolina basketball back to prominence, many fans saw the pictures and their new coach, and couldn't help but think, "The new Frank M's in town."

McGuire coached his last game in 1980, yet his shadow still stretches over Gamecock basketball. It's a blessing and curse for any coach who follows him, as McGuire won so much and so often that every coach will be forever compared to him.

Until that happens – and no other coach in program history has gotten within 100 of McGuire's 283 wins at USC – there will forever be the comparisons. McGuire

SEE USC PAGE A8



USC basketball coach Frank McGuire

FILE PHOTOGRAPH THE STATE

Finding fun on the cheap in January
MOXIE, D1

Spurrier gets the offer of a lifetime
SPORTS, C1

The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1893

FRIDAY, January 17, 2014

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Boy, 6, is third pedestrian hit in week

Rash of auto-related incidents highlights traffic dangers in increasingly urban tri-county

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE
celmore@postandcourier.com

The 6-year-old boy was walking to school on a North Charleston sidewalk. He didn't make it.
An SUV or minivan swerved into his path, jumped a curb and rammed into him.

The driver didn't stop to check on the injured boy. Now, the S.C. Highway Patrol is asking for help to find the suspect. The agency on Thursday would not provide the incident report but released a flier asking for the public's help in tracking down the driver. Witnesses described the suspect vehicle as a gray or silver-colored minivan, or possibly

a crossover-type SUV, the Highway Patrol reported. The extent of the damage is unknown.
The Windsor Hill Elementary School student was struck a little before 7 a.m. Wednesday at Windsor Hill Boulevard and Aspen Woods Lane in Dorchester County.
The auto-pedestrian incident is one

of at least three this week in the area, one of them fatal.
Is the tri-county area more dangerous for pedestrians than other South Carolina regions of Charleston County is, in particular, according to Department of Public Safety statistics.
Please see **AUTO**, Page A6

To offer tips

Anyone with information on Wednesday's hit-and-run wreck in the Windsor Hill subdivision can call S.C. Highway Patrol at 953-6010 or 1-800-768-1506. Tipsters can also call Crime Stoppers at 554-1111.

Sullivan's families sue over maritime forest



Dave Fortiere of Sullivan's Island walks along the path he is able to keep trimmed from his home to the beach through the maritime forest. Though not a part of the lawsuit, Fortiere agrees with the families who are suing the town for more freedom to trim the brush.

Brush unsafe, unsightly and hurting home values, residents say

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND — Ocean views, a breeze and the smell of salt air are missing these days for front beach residents Nancy and David Fortiere.
Instead, a town-owned maritime forest separates them from the aesthetic benefits of seaside living near the lighthouse.

"It's horrible," she said.
Watching the moon rise over the ocean has become a thing of the past, too, because it requires a trek through overgrown brush where coyotes have been spotted, she said.
"We just don't have what we did," the longtime island resident said.
Homeowners who share their concerns have filed suit against the town

asking a court for more freedom to trim back the forest, which they say is home to varmints as well as a potential hiding place for criminals. They want the island government to pay them damages for lost home value they blame on scraggly, unkempt woodlands between them and the shoreline.
Please see **FOREST**, Page A5

Poll

Should residents of Sullivan's Island be allowed to clear maritime forest brush at their property? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

Airport attorney stays — for now

Bids likely sought next budget year

BY WARREN L. WISE
wwise@postandcourier.com

The way Charleston airport officials hire their attorney is likely going to change.

Starting with the next budget year in July, Charleston County Aviation Authority will most likely seek bids for its outside legal expertise.

That move came as part of a unanimous decision Thursday to give longtime airport lawyer Arnold Goodstein a 6.5 percent boost in his annual flat fee, raising it just over \$250,000, effective immediately. He will continue to serve as chief legal counsel for the agency, as he has for the past 20 years, through a verbal agreement, at least through June.

The airport board said it will re-evaluate how it hires outside legal help and formalize the process when it starts working on its next annual spending plan in April. The discussion consumed most of a nearly three-hour meeting that at some points devolved into personality clashes over procedural issues and outside open records requests on the periphery of the debate.

Goodstein said he appreciated the board's vote of confidence in his skills



Attorney Arnold Goodstein can continue working without a contract for now and will get a 6.5 percent pay bump.

Please see **ATTORNEY**, Page A5

Boozing, bickering seen on South Carolina reality TV

'Southern Charm,' 'Drunk History' turn spotlight on Charleston

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

Myrtle Beach trailer park rivalries, young people partying hard at Murrells Inlet and Charleston gentility caught in a web of lust and backstabbing.
Those depictions of life in South Carolina are featured in reality TV shows that have either found a home here or want one.
"It's unusual to have three all at

once," said Doug Ferguson, a communications professor at the College of Charleston.
Add to that mix a popular weekly series that visited here for a slice of local history told from the perspective of a drunk person, and it might be easy to conclude that the Palmetto State has become a haven for such lowbrow TV fare.
But Louisiana has the long-bearded, controversial Phil Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" on the A&E net-

work, and Georgia is home to tabloid favorite "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" on The Learning Channel.
"It seems like it's safer to go after the redneck stereotype. It resonates well with people in the big cities," Ferguson said.
Of late, "Trailer Park: Welcome to Myrtle Manor" has created a splash as it moves into a second season with a cast of quirky characters who reside



Filming for the second season of "Welcome to Myrtle Manor" was taking place at Patrick's Mobile Home Park in Myrtle Beach.
JANET BLACKMAN/MORGAN THE JOURNALIST.COM

Please see **TV**, Page A5



Partly sunny
High 58, Low 33.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

Bridge D7
Business B6
Classifieds F1
Comics D6,7
Crosswords D6,8
Editorial A10
The South B1
Movies D4
Music D1

Celebrities B4
Sports C1
Television D5

Charleston Deals today

Clean Sweep Cleaners
Get up to four cleaning appointments for half price
See A2



Oscar nominations for 2014

Find out this year's Academy Award nominees | 6C

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, January 17, 2014

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Young files sales tax bill

Bill gives School Board option to ask voter opinion

BY DERREK ASBERRY
AND ROB NOVIT
dasberry@aikenstandard.com
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, filed legislation on Wednesday that seeks to give the Aiken County School Board the option of asking voters if they would prefer a one-cent sales tax to raise funding for education capital improvements to paying additional property taxes. According to Young, that option



Young

legislation would apply to all counties not currently collecting enough

is already available to 20 other counties in South Carolina.

The option is not currently available in Aiken County because it does not collect at least \$7 million in accommodations taxes.

If approved, the legislation would apply to all counties

accommodations taxes, not just Aiken County.

"It amends existing state laws so that a county like Aiken can present penny sales tax options to voters,"

Young said. "The only thing the school district can do right now is ask the public if they want higher property taxes. Under this option, they can introduce the penny sales tax."

Young added that, if passed, funds from the one-cent sales tax would go toward whatever the school dis-

trict identifies as its capital needs.

"My focus is on getting this legislation passed so when the school district introduces it, the public can vote on it," he added.

Numbers show that the sales tax referendum would raise up to \$20 million a year for seven years to address school facility needs. Because of that, the bill has already garnered support from other legislators and education leaders.

Please see BILL, Page 5A

COMING SUNDAY



Breaking down the penny tax, taking a look at different taxes



Spurrier makes the top 10 paid coaches
Sports, 1B



Warriors House uses activities to help youth
Local news, 2A



USC Aiken Extra Inning Bull Riding is Saturday
Local news, 2A

AREA DEATHS

Iris Jean Long, Aiken
John Otis "Buster" Smith, Johnston
Olin Pontoo, Aiken
Robert Singer, North Augusta
William "Bill" R. Myers, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Passion feeds those in need



Rose Mitchell stacks a plate of her Southern home-cooked food on Wednesday morning at The Salvation Army off Park Avenue. Mitchell is coming up on her seventh year cooking up food for hungry Aiken residents.

Salvation Army cook tells of her motivation

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

She calls herself a paraprofessional, but others call her "Ms. Rose" or if one feels so compelled — mom.

In the back of The Salvation Army off Park Avenue, Rose Mitchell prepares her home-cooked meals which stem from decades-old traditions

passed down by her grandmother Mary Scott. A homemaker, Scott sold food out of her Aiken home to feed the down trodden. She was an

Wednesday's menu included a big vat of macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes dripping with fresh gravy, fried chicken donated by Kentucky Fried Chicken and buttered rolls. Vegetables are missing from the plate, which, according to Mitchell, is very rare, as she always makes sure to add some greens on the side.

The one item that will never touch her kitchen is her grandmother's signature item — chitlins. Just speaking the word causes Mitchell's nose to wrinkle up and put her head down



Rose Mitchell unwraps her macaroni

Potato farm offers deal

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

The owners of a massive potato farm located in Aiken County are proposing dramatic changes to the farm's initial plans to irrigate its property.

Walther Farms, which owns several thousand acres in the Windsor area, is offering several compromises in effort to address concerns by various environmental organizations across the

state, according to S.C. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Hugh Weathers.

The billions of gallons of water the farm first requested to pull from the South Edisto River for its operations alarmed area farmers and conservationists.

The situation has sparked a call for a change in the state law, but Walther Farms is said to be taking its own steps to ease the anxiety among those wanting to protect the blackwater river.

The farm received approval from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to withdraw up to 805 million gallons of water monthly from the river in April. Another registration application to pull about another three billion gallons of water annually for the farm was awaiting review.

Weathers said Walther Farms has withdrawn its second registration request and plans to irrigate that portion of their land with ground water.

It's also planning to go back to SCDHEC and have its approved surface water registration withdrawn and replaced by 50 per-

OSCAR NOMINEES:
'Gravity' and
'American Hustle'
each get 10 nods
A2



Herald-Journal

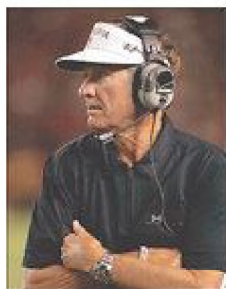
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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things
to read
today



Raise, extension

Steve Spurrier has received a raise and a one-year contract extension that will keep him running the South Carolina football program through 2018.
PAGE B1

Long time to die

A condemned man appeared to gasp several times and took an unusually long time to die in an execution carried out Thursday in Ohio with a combination of drugs never before tried in the U.S.
PAGE A5

MLK Day

Organizers hope community members spend Martin Luther King Jr. Day doing something that matters. People will have an opportunity to get involved at several different events in the Upstate.
PAGE C1

Potential

Two years ago, Landrum Town Council decided there was untapped potential in the historic train depot. Now, despite some unexpected problems during the renovation project, the council feels validated.
PAGE C1

Expensive to fly

The price to board an airliner in the United States has risen for the fourth straight year, making it increasingly expensive to fly almost anywhere. The average domestic roundtrip ticket, including tax, reached \$363.42 last year, up more than \$7 from the prior year.
PAGE C4

Weather

Deal reached on restructuring

Bipartisan state committee's compromise that shifts powers now heads to legislature

By SEANNA ADCOX
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Key South Carolina lawmakers reached a tentative deal Thursday on a government restructuring bill that's become a signature issue for both Gov. Nikki Haley and her Democratic challenger.

A measure called the largest overhaul of state government in two decades is again approaching passage as a committee of three House and three Senate members unanimously approved a compro-

mise. Supporters say it streamlines and modernizes state government. It also requires the legislature to have more oversight of state agencies, with hearings and periodic reviews.

"Efficiency of government takes a huge step forward," said Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla.

The bill divides the duties and employees of the little-understood Budget and Control Board among several new and existing agencies. Many bureaucratic functions of state government — such as fleet

and property management and janitorial services — would go into a new, Cabinet-level Department of Administration.

Purchasing — a key sticking point in the debate — would not transfer to the Cabinet agency. The five-member board that oversees it now would maintain that responsibility, under a new name. Senators were adamant that no one person should be in charge of selecting contractors.

Both chambers must approve the compromise. Those votes may come as early as Tuesday. Alexander said he's optimistic this will be the year the bill makes it to the governor's desk.

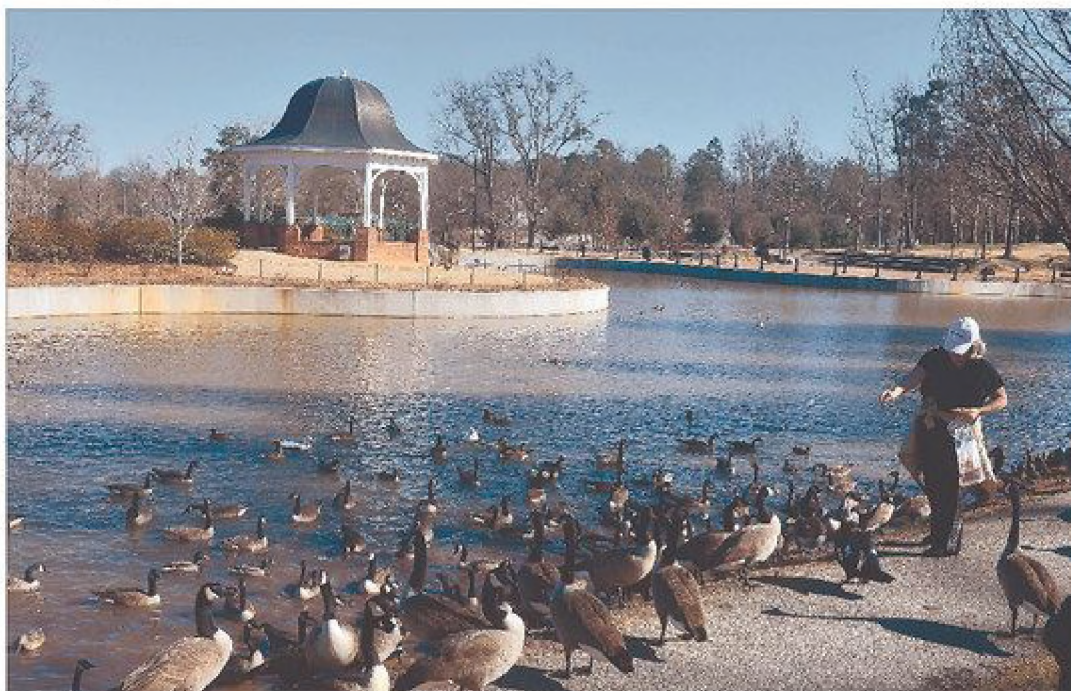
But the legislature has reached this point before.

In 2012, a conference committee's compromise on the bill was approved by the House on the last day of session, but it died in the Senate as the clock ran out.

Former Gov. Mark Sanford fought for the issue throughout his two terms. He particularly wanted to abolish the powerful, five-member panel that oversees the Budget and Control Board. Though he was chairman, he was often on the losing side of 3-2 votes. But contentions between Sanford and his fellow Republican legislative leaders

◆ SEE RESTRUCTURE PAGE A8

She's got friends



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHU.COM

Cynthia Zee of Spartanburg takes a break from walking at Cleveland Park to feed dozens of Canada geese on Thursday afternoon. The weather was a little chilly for a walk, with the high temperature only reaching the 40s. Today's high should hit 50 degrees, with partly sunny skies. Details on C6.

SC gets D+ on emergency care report card

State among many

and the District of Columbia in five categories: access to emergency

and for medical liability, the state received grades of B+ and B-

not accept Medicare beneficia-

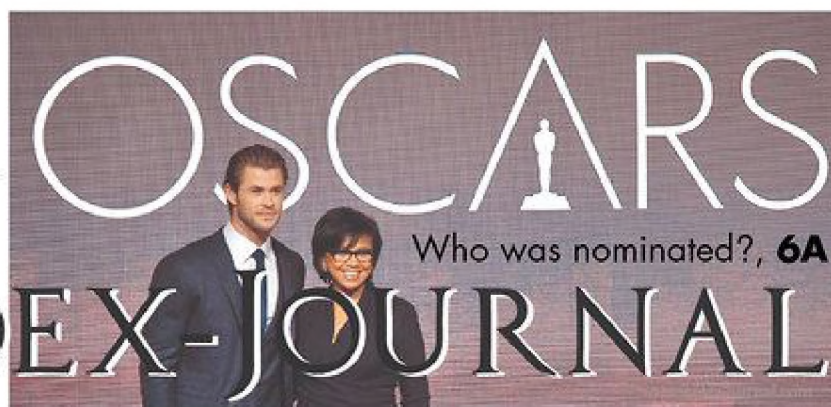
Emerald wrestling, 1B



Probate judge re-election, 2A

INDEX-JOURNAL

WFL 10, NO. 211



2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Man gets 15 years in stabbing death

By MATT BRUCE

mbruce@indexjournal.com

A Greenwood man was convicted Thursday morning inside the Greenwood County Courthouse of a 2011 fatal stabbing.

Tony Suddeth, 45, of 110 Pebbles Lane, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in connection with the incident that left 25-year-old Devin Lewis dead from a stab wound to the chest. Circuit Court Judge Frank Addy sentenced Suddeth to 15 years in prison and credited him with the 783 days he's served behind bars at the Greenwood County Detention Center awaiting trial.



TONY SUDDETH

The stabbing took place Nov. 26, 2011, during a party the victim attended with his wife and others. The party took place on a family compound next door to the camper in which Suddeth resided, in the Lake Shores subdivision just off S.C. Highway 221.

Prosecutors said Lewis and Suddeth got into multiple arguments at the party when the defendant asked the victim why he was driving his car recklessly near his home. The arguments led to a fight that was broken up. The defendant left the scene and returned moments later, at which point the two men got into another fight. That is when Suddeth stabbed Lewis one time in the chest near the heart. Officials from the Greenwood County Coroner's Office indicated the victim died at Self Regional Medical Center's emergency room the night of the incident. Suddeth fled the scene on foot, but Greenwood County deputies apprehended him hours later after the sheriff's office bloodhound team tracked him.

Suddeth was originally charged with murder, but Thursday's plea was to a manslaughter count. Prosecutors noted the victim had a blood-alcohol content of 0.18 and there was marijuana in his system at the time of the incident. Prosecutor's also noted Suddeth admitted to using meth during the days leading up to the stabbing. Suddeth's defense attorney indicated the victim's family was not adamant the defendant receive prison time.

Officials said the charge is classified as a most serious and violent offense, meaning Suddeth will have to serve 85 percent of the sentence.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Overhaul Legislators tentatively reach deal

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Key South Carolina lawmakers reached a tentative deal Thursday on a government restructuring bill that's become a signature issue for Gov. Nikki Haley and her Democratic challenger.



NIKKI HALEY

A measure called the largest overhaul of state government in two decades is again approaching passage as a committee of three House and three Senate members unanimously approved a compromise. Supporters said it streamlines and modernizes state government. It also requires the Legislature to have more oversight of state agencies, with hearings and periodic reviews.

"Efficiency of government takes a huge step forward," said Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Wall-halla.

The bill divides the duties and See OVERHAUL, page 4A

LIFE SAVERS

Abbeville County pairs new tech and practices with CPR

By FRANK BUMB

fbumb@indexjournal.com

DUE WEST

Zelda Oates died Oct. 29. A history of heart problems — including bypass surgery in 1999 — and her friend, Reba Stille, brought her to an exercise room at Erskine College.

"She was with me, I was on the treadmill and she was on the bike," Stille said. "We worked out together a lot. And she was talking to me and then she quit talking. I looked over and she was face down on the floor, totally unresponsive."

For all intents and purposes, Oates had ceased to live. With no pulse, no breath and no heartbeat, a sudden cardiac arrest ended what was a full life filled with numerous friendships, more than 60 years of marriage and preparing scores of future teachers as an elementary education professor at Erskine.

Stille, a retired registered nurse, sprang into action.

"I called for help and immediately tried to turn her over," Stille said. "But, you know, she's 6-foot tall. How I turned her over, I don't know."

But Stille did manage to turn Oates over and, after calling 911, began CPR.

"A couple minutes after that, someone from Erskine came to help," Stille said. "And then the first responders came and used the defibrillator and got her heart beating again. I was very thankful to see them come in with the defibrillator because I knew that's what she needed."

Minutes after first responders from the Due West Fire Department arrived, Abbeville County EMS personnel were on scene and kept Oates from becoming



Volunteers learn and demonstrate the proper way to perform chest compressions at the Abbeville County Medical Center.

a statistic: Less than 8 percent of people who suffer cardiac arrest outside a medical care facility survive, according to the American Heart Association.

"I'm just so thankful they were

there," Oates said. "My life was saved by those first responders. I feel fine just a couple months after the (cardiac arrest). No brain

See CPR, page 4A

NINETY SIX

Fired up Author advocates culture of passion

By KATE HRUBY

khruby@indexjournal.com

NINETY SIX — Ninety Six

When Zelda Oates went into cardiac arrest last October, Due West firefighters with first responder training saved her life using CPR they learned in a new training class run by



FAILED DOWNTOWN BANK ROBBERY

Suspect in custody; no money taken

A3

The Item



3-horse race
Academy Award
nominees announced **A6**

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

Search for USC Sumter dean ends

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
reva@theitem.com

The University of South Carolina has named Dr. Michael Sonntag the new dean of USC Sumter.

Naming Sonntag — who will officially take the position Feb. 1 and hit the ground running instead of starting at the beginning of the next school term — ends the school's search for a permanent dean that has lasted for more than a year.

Sonntag, who was raised in Sheridan, Texas, and previously taught at Lander University in Greenwood, has been the chief academic officer at the University of Maine at Presque Isle since 2007.

Sonntag said he only knows USC Sumter from a distance after visiting the campus briefly during the interviewing process. However, he recognizes he'll have to get started fairly quickly in the next two weeks. Although he admits to being pretty terrible with names, he said he plans to get to know people on campus and find out how they feel about USC Sumter and its vision.

"I think really what I've got to focus on is to get to know people, and not just on campus. But I'll get on campus and talk to everybody and figure out where their heads are about the institution and whether any of them are in disagreement and why. I want to first talk to them and find out their vision. And I would also like to connect with the community," Sonntag said. "From what I've learned here at UMPI, is that it's important to reach out to the community. They have an opinion,

'...What I've got to focus on is to get to know people, and not just on campus. They have an opinion, have an investment and have a stake in the university.'



*Michael Sonntag,
USC Sumter dean*

have an investment and have a stake in the university. I want to make sure that I'm out there hearing what their thoughts are."

Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins said Sonntag's academic leadership and success with community and campus relations led to his selection.

"Dr. Sonntag has a vision of leading USC Sumter to greater heights, building on past successes while also initiating creative and innovative efforts," Elkins said in a statement. "His many successes at both UMPI and Lander University in Greenwood emphasize his leadership strengths in faculty and campus relations, accountability, strategic planning, external relationship building and securing

SEE SONNTAG, PAGE A5



PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH / THE ITEM

ABOVE: YMCA Membership Associate Moneisha Juniou accepts the award for employee of the year at the YMCA's annual meeting on Thursday morning.

BELOW: John Jones Jr., left, who was named the Sumter Family YMCA's 2013 Humanitarian of the Year, speaks with keynote speaker Dr. Charles "Pap" Propst during the meeting.

YMCA members, employees honored

Cancer survivor named Y Humanitarian of the Year

BY JADE REYNOLDS
jade@theitem.com

John Jones Jr. was named the Sumter Family YMCA's 2013 Humanitarian of the Year at Thursday's annual "Mission in Action" meeting.

"Our YMCA has a long-standing history of recognizing outstanding humanitarians within the Sumter community," said Hugh

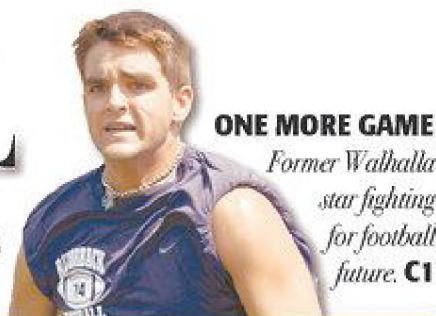
Humphries, last year's recipient of the award, as he introduced the surprised Jones. "These servant-leaders are not only financial supporters, but also lifelong members of the YMCA who dedicate their lives to not only advance the vision and goals of our Y movement, but also strive to make an impact



SEE AWARDS, PAGE A8

SALES TAX REFERENDUM
November 2014

TAX COMMISSION MEETS
Projects top \$40 million. **A3**



ONE MORE GAME
Former Walhalla star fighting for football future. C1

\$225K gone?

Federal spending bill likely to impact Oconee County



BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

Oconee County is likely to lose \$225,000 in funds budgeted in this year's budget as a result of the \$1.1 trillion spending bill that passed the U.S. House

of Representatives Thursday and is expected to get approval from Senate today, U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan said Thursday. In a conference call with reporters Thursday afternoon, Duncan said the 1,500-page bill does not fund the federal

government's Payment in Lieu of Taxation (PILT) program, in which local governments receive payments for lost tax revenue as a result of federal ownership of forestland.

SEE GONET, PAGE A6

Challengers emerge in Seneca race

BY CARLOS CALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Two challengers — a former city councilman and a successful businessman — will make a run against four incumbents looking to retain their seats on Seneca City Council.

Robert Holbrooks, who last served on City Council about a decade ago, and Stuart Pohl, owner of The Spot on the Alley, filed their papers at the Voter Registration and Elections Office in Walhalla Thursday. Both men said they think it's time to shake things up and



Holbrooks



Pohl

SEE CHALLENGERS, PAGE A5

Hungry horses



Tilly, an 18-month-old horse, is being cared for by Claire Proffitt and other Crossroads Animal Rescue volunteers. Tilly is very weak and cannot stand because she was allegedly not fed properly by her previous owner.

Malnourished animals looking for new homes

BY MONICA KREBER
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Tilly got her name because her full name, Matilda, means "mighty in battle."

For more than two days, Tilly, a horse around the age of 18 months, has been lying down on the

ground, covered by a blanket, eating hay and alfalfa but struggling to pull herself off the ground. Her bones are delineated through her fuzzy brown fur.

Tilly is so malnourished she cannot even stand.

The little horse is one of five blatantly hungry horses that were

surrendered to the Oconee Animal Shelter on Tuesday.

Jaimie Paul, director of the Oconee Animal Shelter and Animal Control, said the horses were brought in by a man who said he could not take care of the horses

SEE HORSES, PAGE A6

Tax receipts top \$84M

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Property tax receipts paid by Wednesday's deadline yielded more than \$84 million for county, school and municipal operations and bonds in Oconee County, an increase of more than \$3.5 million over funds collected a year ago.

Oconee County Treasurer Greg Nowell said a total of \$8,260 bills were paid by the 2014 deadline, compared with 57,260 in 2013. A late fee is assessed for all tax bills not paid by the Jan. 15 deadline.

"It looks like more people paid before the penalty went on this year

— maybe the economy is recovering and people are needing less time," Nowell said. "It was the smoothest tax season since I've been here."

Once again, the county's biggest taxpayer was Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station,

whose bill was nearly one-third of the total receipts received by Wednesday. Duke paid its tax bill of \$27,632,423.15 this week, an increase of more than \$400,000 over last year's payment of \$27,047,376.07

SEE TAX, PAGE A6



'I think it's a great idea but I don't know how they're going to enforce it.'

Shirley Chappell

'If it's just about texting, then that's fine.'

Heather McSwain



'It's a distraction in driving and takes your mind off what you're supposed to be doing.'

Pendleton residents weigh in on texting and driving ordinance

BY MONICA KREBER
THE JOURNAL

PENDLETON — While Pendleton Town Council members voted unanimously this month to pass first reading of an ordinance that would



Texting and driving may soon be illegal in Pendle-



Morning News

FRIDAY JANUARY 17, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunshine mixing with clouds, high 55, low 28
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

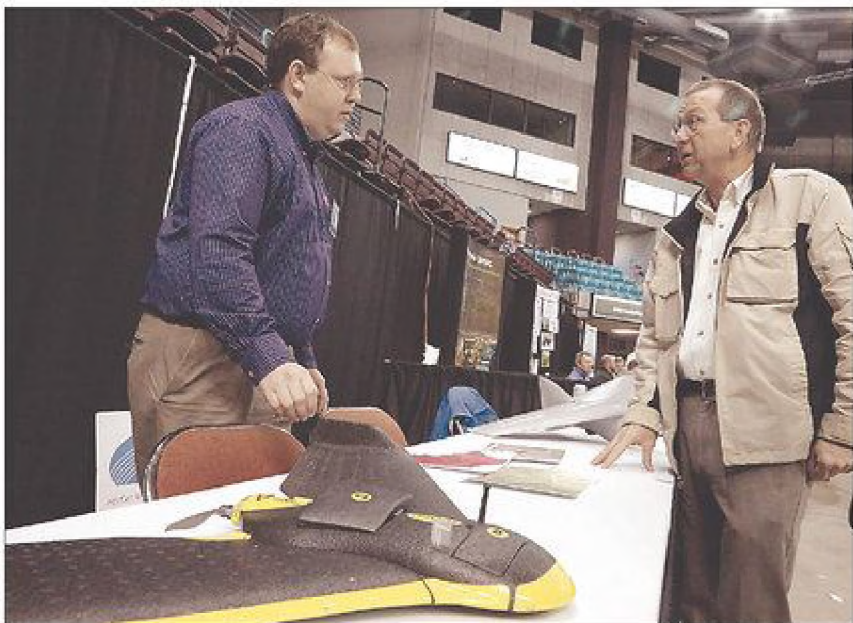
75 cents

INSIDE, 4A:

- ❖ Opening-day attendees share thoughts on expo
- ❖ Notebook: Bits and pieces from the event
- ❖ Call for more collaboration, technology in farming



No flying lessons needed



Chris Post, Clemson University associate professor of environmental information science, talks with Clemson Pee Dee Research and Education Center agronomist Phil Bower about unmanned aircraft Thursday as the S.C. AgriBiz and Farm Expo gets underway at the Florence Civic Center.

Pilot-free tech could allow farmers to survey fields remotely

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
jrussell@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — It's not a bird, it's not a plane exactly and it's definitely not Superman.

But if it pans out, it could end up saving a lot of farmers' fields sometime in the near future.

The second annual S.C. AgriBiz and Farm Expo opened Thursday with the latest in agricultural technology — Agricultural Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

The aircraft, measuring a few feet in width and weighing less than 5 pounds, flies by itself once instructed on where to go.

If you're thinking this sounds a lot like a drone, you'd be right.

Chris Post, associate professor of environmental information science at Clemson University, who along with the NextGen Air Technology Center at North Carolina State University introduced the technology to the expo crowd, said those in the UAS field tend to shy away from calling them drones because of the military connotation.

But just like how the military drones have changed



The unmanned aircraft displayed weighs less than 5 pounds and uses an auto-intelligent, pre-programmed pilot to maneuver. The aircraft can image 500 acres in about a half-hour.

"The tools are there with aircraft and imagery, but it needs to be made useful for a farmer," said Thomas Zajkowski of the Institute for Transportation Re-

comes a problem."

The aircraft can be mounted with different types of equipment depending on the applica-

height, health of trees and pine beetle infestations."

He also said the software to mosaic, or stitch, high-resolution images together has gotten a lot better to allow the farmer to get one big picture. Post said the little aircraft can image 500 acres in just 30 to 40 minutes.

"You could fly this over your land every day during the growing season," Zajkowski said. "The idea is to create databases of the land so you could plug it into your tractor. It would know where to go to apply fertilizer or plant."

With each aircraft costing anywhere from \$13,000 to more than \$80,000, it's a steep investment for farmers. But the benefits could be huge, Post said.

"People have been wanting to do this for a long time. Once it gets FAA approval, it could have billions in economic impact," he said.

Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center research agronomist Phil Bowers said the technology is very exciting.

He said PIDREC has acquired instrumentation to get the same data driving a tractor through the field.

SC legislators tentatively reach deal on restructuring

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Key South Carolina lawmakers reached a tentative deal Thursday on a government restructuring bill that's become a signature issue for both Gov. Nikki Haley and her Democratic challenger.

A measure called the largest overhaul of state government in two decades is again approaching passage as a committee of three House and three Senate members unanimously approved a compromise. Supporters say it streamlines and modernizes state government. It also requires the Legislature to have more oversight of state agencies, with hearings and periodic reviews.

"Efficiency of government takes a huge step forward," said Sen. Thomas Alexander, R-Walhalla.

The bill divides the duties and employees of the little-understood Budget and Control Board among several new and existing agencies. Many bureaucratic functions of state government — such as fleet and property management and janitorial services — would go into a new, Cabinet-level Department of Administration.

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman, R-Florence, also sits

INSIDE

- ❖ Pee Dee lawmakers mull '14-15 budget. **3A**
- ❖ S.C. Senate OKs concealed weapons in restaurants. **8A**
- ❖ Proposed law allows gay couples to file joint tax returns. **8A**

See **DEAL**, Page 8A



S.C. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, addresses a crowd of more than 150 on Thursday during the 16th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Francis Marion University.

Crowd at FMU challenged to live King's legacy

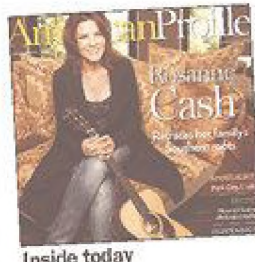
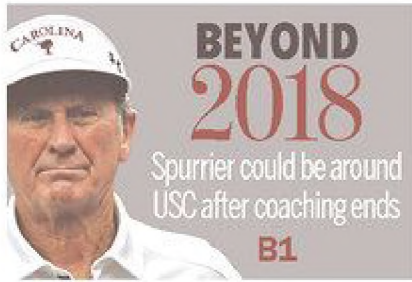
BY LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN
Morning News
lbuchanan@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Kicking off a weekend full of community events focusing on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., more than 150 people gathered to celebrate the civil rights leader Thursday evening at Francis Marion University's Chapman Auditorium with a celebration of music, tributes and reminders to live the legacy he left behind.

Keynote speaker S.C. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, challenged the audience to look



Odd



FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS * ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



TheTandD.com

| 3 SECTIONS, 36 PAGES * VOL. 133 * NO. 17



Holly Hill Police Lt. Joshua H. Dettler, the assistant chief, sits in his patrol car on Wednesday. He was the first officer to respond to the abduction of a 4-month-old from a home outside the town limits. Residents of the surrounding area say they're worried after the kidnapping and a recent murder. **Listen to audio with this story at TheTandD.com**

Man charged with stabbing brother-in-law

T&D Staff Report

An Orangeburg man was arrested and charged with attempted murder Wednesday night after allegedly stabbing his brother-in-law multiple times.

Javell Antwan Jamison, 22, 365 Jamison Avenue, allegedly stabbed his 38-year-old brother-in-law in the neck, behind the ear and in his back, according to an Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office incident report.

The brother-in-law was taken to the Regional Medical Center with severe lacerations, according to the report.

Orangeburg County Magistrate Peggy Doremus set bond on Jamison at \$25,000, surety Wednesday.

According to the incident report, the two were at an Armstrong Terrace residence around 9:10 p.m. when an argument began.

Jamison fled on foot after stabbing his brother-in-law, the report says. He was quickly apprehended without incident on Belleville Road. Officers did not find a knife on Jamison.

After waiving his Miranda rights, Jamison told officers she and his brother-in-law began arguing a week earlier at his grandmother's house.

Jamison said he went to his mother's house Wednesday to grab a bite to eat when he came into contact with his brother-in-law again.

Jamison told officers that during the ensuing fight, he saw his brother-in-law "walk to his trunk and get out a shotgun and start loading shells into it." He said he started running and heard a loud gunshot behind him.

He also said he did not stab his brother-in-law.

Officers continued to question Jamison, who changed his story several times, the report states.

Jamison then admitted to law enforcement, "that he did it because he was angry," the report states.

Officers were unable to locate any shotgun shell casings in the area.

The incident is under investigation.



Jamison

FEAR AFTER VIOLENCE

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Last week, a Holly Hill man was shot and killed. On Tuesday, mourners returning from his funeral discovered a baby on the side of the road.

The man who called 911 about the child said he just left Ebenezer Zion AME Church when a church brother called him to say that someone found a baby on the side of the road.

He and other church members arrived at the scene.

He recalled talking with a fellow church member and asked if he was certain there was a baby on the roadside.

"I thought maybe a stuffed teddy bear had been on the side of the road," he said, and someone mistook it as a baby.

It was the 4-month-old girl authorities

Baby was discovered by mourners returning from slain man's funeral

say was kidnapped by seven unknown males with guns who forced their way into a Holly Hill residence. The kidnappers left the child on the side of the road, in Berkeley County, where she was found safe. She was later returned to her family.

The distance from the residence where the child was kidnapped to the intersection of Highways 176 and 311, where she was located, is about 6.5 miles.

In the man's 911 call he tells a dispatcher, "There's a baby on the side of the road and we don't know who it belongs to."

"Is the baby awake?" the dispatcher asks.

"Yes sir, he's awake," the caller says.

"Do you know about how old he is?" the dispatcher asks.

After a few seconds of discussion between the caller and others at the scene, the caller says, "About 3 to 4 months old."

The dispatcher says, "You're going to stay there until we get somebody out there?"

"Yes, sir. Yes, sir," the caller says. "There's a lot of us up here now."

The man who dialed 911 at 4:23 p.m. Tuesday spoke with The Times and Democrat, but declined to be identified because he didn't

See FEAR, A3

S.C. government overhaul gets tentative approval from panel of lawmakers

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Key South Carolina lawmakers reached a tentative deal Thursday on a government restructuring bill that's become a signature issue for both Gov. Nikki Haley and her Democratic challenger.

and janitorial services — would go into a new, Cabinet-level Department of Administration.

Purchasing — a key sticking point in the debate — would not transfer to the Cabinet agency. The five-member board that oversees it now would maintain that responsibility, under a new name. Senators were adamant that no



14-year-old dies, officials believe of natural causes

T&D Staff Report

A 14-year-old died Thursday, apparently of natural causes, according to the Orangeburg County Coroner's Office.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437