

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 10/30/2013 9:03:39 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Wednesday, October 30, 2013

SC Front Pages – Wednesday, October 30, 2013

WEDNESDAY

Partly sunny

76

Thursday
Partly sunny

78

FORECAST 10C

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LOCAL | 9C

MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA | MyrtleBeachOnline.com | OCTOBER 20, 2012

7C



DRUG DROP-OFF

Police collect unused prescriptions | 1C

Congress pushes for delayed rate hikes

Strand Realtors applaud flood insurance deferment

Press staff and wire reports

MYRTLE BEACH: Grand Strand real estate associates showed what appeared to be an attempt by Congress on Tuesday to slow down the status

order of rate hikes in the federal flood insurance program, but they can't be sure what will come of it. "I agree the program needs reworking," said Randy Harrison, president of Harrison Realty Co. in

Charlottesville, "but just not all at once."

A bipartisan group of lawmakers Tuesday introduced legislation that would delay for about four years some changes to the federal govern-

ment's flood insurance program that are threatening to sock thousands of people with unaffordable premium hikes.

The move comes as the government is beginning to implement a significant overhaul of the much-criticized program. That overhaul passed last year with sweeping support. The

reworked program was backed by both liberals and tea party conservatives but has caused a panic in places like Staten Island, N.Y., and the New Jersey coast and in flood-prone areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida, where higher rates threaten to push

See MORE | Page 8A

Canceled insurance plans deal next blow

Obama official: Health care woes are insurers' fault

By KATHARINE ALLEN-ZARZOSKI and
STEPHEN ORNSTEIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON: Move over, website woes. Lawmakers are looking at the Obama administration Tuesday with a different view: health care problems — a wave of cancellation notices hitting individuals and small businesses who buy their own insurance.

At the same time, the federal official closest to the website apologized for its dysfunction in new sign-ups and renewed things-are-getting-better-by-the-day.

Medicare chief Marilyn Towner said it's not the administration but insurers who are responsible for cancellation letters now reaching many of the estimated 14 million people who buy individual policies. And, of course, people who get cancellation notices will be able to find better replacement plans, in some cases for less.

The Associated Press, citing the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, reported in May that many carriers would opt to cancel policies that fell and leave new ones. Administratively that was seen as easier than changing existing plans to comply with the new law, which mandates coverage of even services and provides better financial protection against catastrophic illnesses.

While the administration has single warning of the cancellations, they could become another public relations debacle for President Barack Obama's signature legislation.

This problem goes to the credibility of one of the president's earliest promises about the health care overhaul. You

See INSURE | Page 7A

GEORGETOWN



Photo by CHUCKLE SOUTH, chucklesouth.com

Georgetown resident Kathy "Net" McWilliams cries Tuesday as she talks with S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley after Haley spoke with the media and a crowd of onlookers on the status of the recovery efforts taking place in the wake of the Front Street fire that destroyed seven historic buildings. McWilliams lived in one of the destroyed buildings and lost everything.

Haley revisits site of Front Street fire

By AMANDA KELLEY
akelley@hannaford.com

GEORGETOWN: Kathy McWilliams welcomed Gov. Nikki Haley Tuesday afternoon, telling the governor she's been a blessing to the city following last month's fire on Front Street.

McWilliams was one of 13 people who lost their homes when the fire broke out in the 700 block of Front Street Sept. 25. She said Haley's visit to the city was wonderful.

"It's so good to see her here, you know me, she," McWilliams said. "She's given me beyond to help me rebuild my home."



Georgetown Mayor Jack Broadie (left) talks as Haley visits the crowd.

Inside

Grand candidates hope to maintain or improve atmosphere for business in Georgetown | Page 1C

people do that?"

Haley met with the Rotary Club of Georgetown and Front Street business owners Tuesday before conducting a press conference.

"This is a community of inspiration," she said. "This is a

See HALEY | Page 8A

Golson: Honor code was violated

MB grad says poor judgment on test led to suspension

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEACH, Fla. (Associated Press) — A former Myrtle Beach High School senior says he violated the school's honor code when he cheated on a test.

"It wasn't due to poor grades or anything like that," the former Myrtle Beach High School senior said.

He said in the interview that what he did was considered a violation of the honor code. Michael Golson, a sophomore for the football team, said he couldn't remember because of privacy laws. Golson did not return a telephone message left Tuesday by The Associated Press or respond to a text message.

Golson said going from the national championship game to being out of college has been "horrifying," saying it hurts to watch the Irish (I-2) play.

Nikki Haley said last week he and his former coordinator Chuck

Golson had previously said only that he was suspended for using poor academic judgment without specifying the content. He said in the interview that what he did was considered a violation of the honor code. Michael Golson, a sophomore for the football team, said he couldn't remember because of privacy laws. Golson did not return a telephone message left Tuesday by The Associated Press or respond to a text message.

Golson said going from the national championship game to being out of college has been "horrifying," saying it hurts to watch the Irish (I-2) play.

Nikki Haley said last week he and his former coordinator Chuck

See GOLSON | Page 7A



METRO
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reactor
in service

LOSING IT TIGERS TRY TO GET A HANDLE ON TURNOVERS



The Greenville News

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WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 30, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

NATION

Obama considers ending surveillance of foreign allies, 2A

FINAL EDITION K1

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Report: Policy losses foreseen

NBC says Obama White House knew health law would mean cancellations

By Melanie Eversley
USA Today

Millions of Americans are getting their health insurance canceled under the Affordable Care Act, and the Obama administration has known for about three years that this would happen, NBC

News reported.

About 50 to 75 percent of 14 million consumers who buy health insurance individually will receive a "cancellation" letter or its equivalent in the next year because their current policies don't meet the standards laid out by the new law, the news organization reported, citing four

sources deeply involved in the ACA.

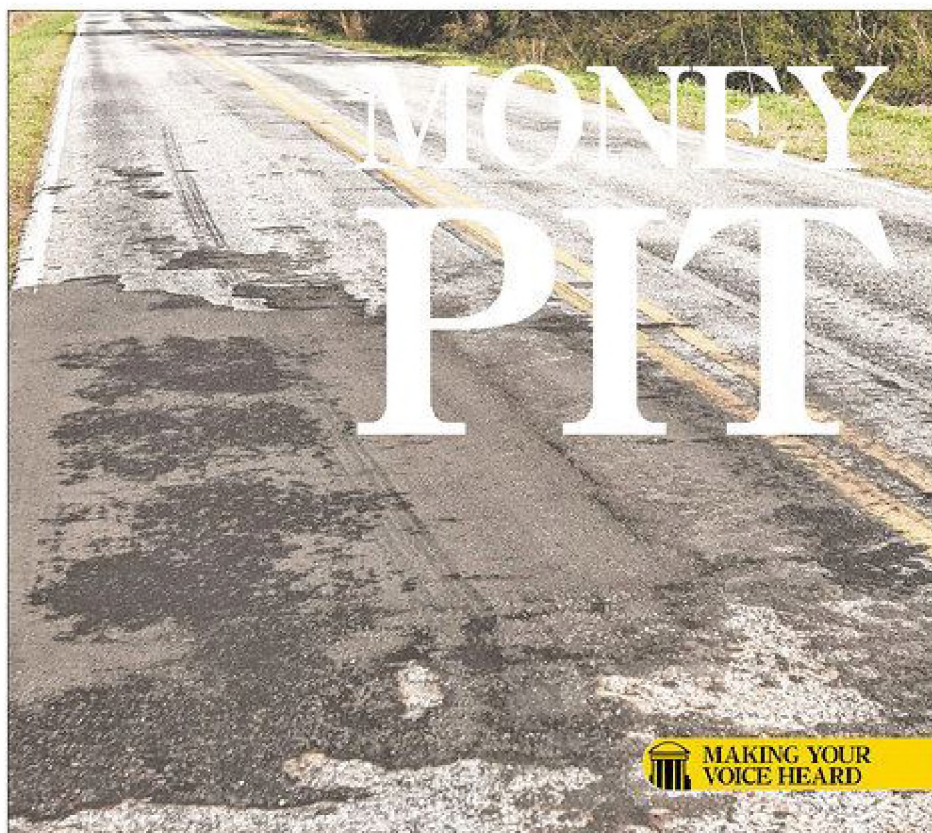
Of those who will be forced to buy new insurance, many will face huge price increases, NBC reported.

Initially, the administration stipulated that policies in effect as of March 23, 2010, could be "grandfathered" or kept even if they don't meet the requirements of the new law. Later, the Department of Health and Human Services wrote regulations that narrowed that provision. These rules dictate that if any part of

"Nothing in the Affordable Care Act forces people out of their health plans."

JESSICA SANTILLO, White House spokeswoman, to NBC News

See ACA, Page 4A



A variety of factors can cause pavement failure, including too many air voids in the paving mixture, or too few. KEN OSBURN/STAFF

Failure to meet pavement standards costs taxpayers



By Tim Smith
Staff writer

South Carolina taxpayers spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year resurfacing and building roads, many of which begin deteriorating within their first two decades.

Records obtained and analyzed by The Greenville News suggest that one reason for the deterioration in some Upstate roads

GHS becomes academic center

By Liv Osby
Staff Writer
losby@greenvillenews.com

Greenville Health System was officially designated an academic health center this week in what was described as a first-of-its-kind model that brings Clemson, Furman and the University of South Carolina into the fold to study health care delivery and develop ways to improve it.

Typically, academic health centers are defined as a university with a medical school, at least one health profession program, and an owned or affiliate.

See CENTER, Page 4A



Sponge Taylor, vice president of academics at Greenville Health System, says the hospital's partnership with colleges helps improve care and creates a pipeline for new doctors. HEIDI HEILBRUN/STAFF

INSIDE

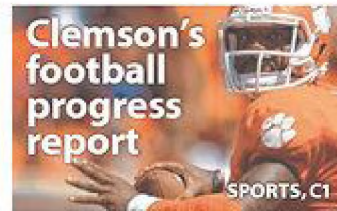
There's nothing scary about this tasty pumpkin

FOOD, D1



Clemson's football progress report

SPORTS, C1



The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, October 30, 2013

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Health care provider creates own insurance

Palmetto Primary Care says BlueCross was too costly for workers



Nurse Donna Hartman sees members of the Likendey family, Connor, 12, Cindy and Drennen, 14, all of whom were visiting Palmetto Primary Care Physicians' Urgent Care Center in North Charleston on Tuesday and suffering from the same symptoms. Palmetto Primary Care Physicians is launching its new in-house insurance plan because it said rates through BlueCross BlueShield were too high.

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

Palmetto Primary Care Physicians will launch a new in-house health insurance plan next month for its employees because BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina's rates have become too expensive, the group's CEO said Tuesday.

The in-house plan will reduce health insurance costs for the practice's 600 employees by as much as 85 percent per year period, said spokeswoman Victoria Barton.



Lehnich

"The savings on my end is over 50 percent," he said. "It's kind of like getting a mini-rate for us."

The new plan will not be offered to patients who visit the practice. It is available only for employees, such as doctors, nurses, physicians assistants and administrators, who work there. Patients covered by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina can continue to see their Palmetto Primary Care Physicians provider and will not be affected by this change.

"When I came here from out of town, I was sort of stunned at the cost of the health care coverage here for the group," said Palmetto Primary Care Physicians CEO Jeff Lehnich, who joined the practice this year.

The employer contribution per month was already, on average, \$1,200 a month for each employee, he said. The rates for a

Please see **INSURANCE**, Page A6



Marilyn Tavenner, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, testified Tuesday before a House Ways and Means Committee hearing.

Policy cancellations a fresh blow for stumbling health care rollout

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Move over, website woes. Lawmakers confronted the Obama administration Tuesday with a difficult new health care problem — a wave of cancellations

notices hitting individuals and small businesses who buy their own insurance.

At the same time, the federal official closest to the website apologized for its dysfunction in new sign-ups and asserted things are getting better by the day.

Medicare chief Marilyn Tavenner said it's not the ad-

ministration but in users who are responsible for cancellation letters now reaching many of the estimated 14 million people who buy individual policies. And, officials said, people who get cancellation notices will be able to find better replacement plans, in some cases for less.

Please see **OVERLAP**, Page A6

Mom, daughter recount horror

Kidnap victims survive nightmare

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

ST. STEPHEN — Five minutes after she said goodbye to her grandparents, locked the door and went back to bed Monday morning, the 17-year-old heard footsteps in the hallway.

The teenager had a sense that someone had been watching the Peppermill Way home overnight.

But she was alone when she heard the floor creak.

"I thought it was my grandmother," she said. "But I looked up, and he had a gun and a knife in his hand."

It was her mother's estranged boyfriend, Deadene McHoney from jail.

The startling sight started a daylong encounter with 36-year-old Telly Darnell McClam, who the teen said raped her and used duct tape and a revolver to hold her and her mother captive. The ordeal for Deadene W. McHoney, 36, and her daughter ended after McClam sped away from authorities in Williamsburg County and dashed



Please see **KIDNAP**, Page A5

What's flip side of penny tax?

Dorchester can learn from its neighbors

BY BO PETERSEN
bpeters@postandcourier.com

If Dorchester County passes a local-option sales tax next week, the people most apt to be hurt are renters. The reason: Property owners who rent to them don't always use their tax savings to cut rental rates, officials say.

But based on what has happened in Berkeley and Charleston counties where they have approved the tax, paying an extra 1 percent sales tax doesn't sting for many owners when compared with the benefits of the property tax credit they get.

The Berkeley County tax was a big issue before the 1996 vote that approved it, said County Councilman Calhoun Finckley Jr., who represents the rural Cross area. After it passed, "nobody ever complained to me. Not once did I get a complaint. People didn't miss (the 1 percent). They enjoyed the

Please see **TAX**, Page A4



Mostly cloudy
High 79, Low 58.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

Bridge... B7
Business... B6
Classified... C1
Comics... D6, 7

Crossroads... B15
Editorial... A14
Food... B1
Homes... B4

Obituaries... B4
The South... B1
Sports... C1
Television... B5

Charleston Deals today

Krispy Kreme
BOGO: Dozen original glazed donuts for only \$8.50. See A2

9 TITLES IN 10 YEARS: Lexington girls state golf champs again, **C5**



MIRACLE AT MIZZOU

A look back at USC's great comeback win, **SPORTS**



The State

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

Bond reform panel says police officers should attend every hearing

Group's advice could make it more difficult for repeat offenders to get low bonds

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
nophilips@thestate.com

A Columbia police officer should attend every bond hearing in cases of significant crimes and bring a package of information to the judge to aid in deciding

whether a suspect should be held or allowed back on the streets.

That will be one of several expected recommendations from the mayor's panel on violent crime and bond reform when it releases its final report next

month.

The panel met Tuesday at City Hall to review its draft proposals, which included everything from gang affiliation of defendants to legislative issues to risk assessments for everyone charged in a crime.

"Many of the officers don't appear in bond court because it's in the morning and they make the arrests at night," said Columbia Municipal Judge Carl Solomon, who is a member of the panel. "It doesn't have to be the same person. When

ever an officer is there you learn something that you didn't learn from paperwork."

The panel was organized in July after the shooting death of 33-year-old Kelly Hunnewell, a single mother who was killed during her

early morning work shift at a bakery. The shooting sparked community outrage, because two of the three teens charged with murder were free on bond when she was killed. May-

SEE REFORM PAGE A8

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 'LEGEND' | IKE MCLEESE DIES



In 2009, U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr., right, chats with Ike McLeese, president of the Greater Columbia Area Chamber of Commerce.

HE UNITED MILITARY, BUSINESS

By JEFF WILKINSON
wilkinson@thestate.com

Ike McLeese, who served as chief executive of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce for nearly two decades, guiding it from disarray and debt to prominence as the region's leading business advocacy group, died Tuesday after undergoing heart surgery 20 days ago. He was 69.

McLeese suffered a heart attack Sept. 5 and underwent heart surgery Oct. 10. In an interview with The State before his surgery, McLeese said that

INSIDE:

Career highlights and community reaction, **A5**

ONLINE:

See a photo gallery at thestate.com.

he was planning to step down as president and CEO in December and continue to serve the chamber as a consultant in military affairs.

As a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army, McLeese

SEE MCLEESE PAGE A5

"His passing is a huge loss to our state and nation. Ike was a treasure who was truly passionate about the military. ... We will miss him tremendously."

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Livingston Jr., Adjutant General for S.C.

"He could always see the issues coming straight forward at you, and worked real hard to try to solve those issues. ... Ike didn't care about who got credit for stuff, and he understood he didn't need to be the big fish."

Otis Rawl, director, S.C. Chamber of Commerce

"Our brave men and women who serve in uniform and their families have lost a champion who pledged unwavering support."

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C.

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, October 30, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 303 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Man charged in SRS cyber attack

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

An individual linked to the July 2013 cyber attacks to the Department of Energy, which affected employees at the Savannah River Site, was charged on Monday by the acting U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Launi Love, 28, of Stradishall, England, was charged with conspiracy to access and damage the protected computer networks of multiple U.S. government agencies. The criminal complaint states that Love and his conspirators accessed protected computers between October 2012 and August 2013.

Authorities in the United Kingdom

arrested Love at his residence on Friday, Oct. 25, in connection with an ongoing investigation by the Cyber Crime Unit of the National Crime Agency.

In addition, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey announced the unsealing of an indictment charging Love with allegedly infiltrating U.S. government

computer systems.

The Associated Press reports the U.S. government said the purpose of the attacks was "to disrupt the operations and infrastructure" of the federal government.

Love faces a maximum penalty of 10 years if convicted of the offenses charged in Virginia.

He's accused of working with two

co-conspirators in Australia and one in Sweden, none of whom have been charged, according to the Associated Press.

The DOE cyber attack affected more than 104,000 employees, including an unknown number of employees at the Savannah River Site.

Please see **ATTACK**, Page 13A

Shining a little light

Canine, handler bring happiness to the suffering

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

When Cocky walks into a room, his honey-colored eyes seem to immediately focus on someone who needs a little comfort.

This Chesapeake retriever, whose owner is Michele Pyle of Wagener, has recently joined a nationwide team of other canines that are part of HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response.

This nonprofit organization sends dogs and their trainers to areas around the United States that recently experienced a disaster, so they may offer emotional support to those affected. The organization started in 2001 when it first responded to the 9/11 events.

"The animals are so good at calming people down and getting them through a disaster after the fact," Pyle said.

Pyle has been breeding and training dogs for about 30 years with her husband Chuck. Chuck is a military veteran, and for about three years, they have taken Cocky and his father Seamus, to the Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Columbia to visit patients.

The dogs have brought much joy and many smiles to the veterans' faces.

They have visited post-traumatic stress disorder patients and those in the long-term care center. It quickly became obvious that Cocky loved people, and they loved him back.

Pyle later learned about the HOPE organization and started the process to get Cocky trained for the program.

The screening and workshop were thorough, Chuck said.

Please see **HOPE**, Page 13A



Michele Pyle and her Chesapeake retriever named Cocky are now part of the HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response, a nonprofit organization that sends dogs and their trainers to areas around the United States that recently experienced a disaster so they may offer emotional support to those affected.

Local health center hacked

Sheriff's Office investigating case of cyber hacking at Margaret J. Weston center

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

The Aiken County Sheriff's Office is investigating a case of cyber hacking at the Margaret J. Weston Community Health Center.

The incident was reported on Monday, according to a sheriff's report.

An unknown suspect hacked into the computer system at the health center and was able to look at medical records of some of the center's clients. It was

unclear how many clients' records were accessed or if the hacker was able to obtain anything. The hack was discovered on Sunday by the health center's information technology specialist, according to Gigi Walker, operations manager. The health center and the Sheriff's Office are still investigating how "extensive" the hack was.

"We have tightened up our IT so that it doesn't happen again," Walker said. "It seems as though it's not that extensive."

No arrests have been made, but Walker said investigators have a lead. The hacker was able to access a computer log in.

"The computers have a portal that allows you to go into electronic medical record software," Walker said. "That person was able to get into the software, but they weren't very proficient as far as moving around in it."

Walker said patients of the center do not need to take any action at this time.

"We don't think any protected health information has been compromised," she said, adding that the center will contact patients directly, as well as media outlets, as soon as it knows more.

Edgefield clinic new home of Hitchcock Healthcare branch
Local news, 2A

AREA DEATHS

Daniel D. Ramseur, Aiken
Louise Rouse, Windsor
Robert S. Smith, New Ellenton
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



INSIDE TODAY



Planning a monster bash this Halloween?



USC coach Frank Martin

Haunting goodies

Halloween recipes offer tasty, tricky treats
E1



Herald-Journal

WEDNESDAY

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things
to read
today



Solicitor's Award

S.C. Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Kevin Ellis, left, received the Solicitor's Award for law enforcement excellence from 7th Circuit Solicitor Barry Barnette, right, Tuesday night during a banquet for Spartanburg County law enforcement officers. **PAGE C1**

Spying defended

Facing lawmakers who suggested U.S. surveillance has gone too far, the national intelligence director on Tuesday defended spying on foreign allies as necessary and said such scrutiny of America's friends is commonplace. **PAGE A3**

Dorman advances

After a sluggish start Tuesday night, top-seed Dorman swept three games from South Pointe to take a first-round match in the 4A volleyball state playoffs. **PAGE B1**

No comment

A Woodruff City Council meeting erupted in confusion, frustration and anger Tuesday night when council adjourned without making a public comment on the suspension of Police Chief Darryl Dawkins. **PAGE C1**

Tepid economy

A hazy picture of the U.S. economy has emerged from the most recent snapshots of retail sales, housing, manufacturing, the job market and the confidence of consumers. **PAGE C5**

At least 6 dead in Upstate home

Bodies found after Greenwood standoff

By MATT BRUCE

Greenwood Index-Journal

Investigators are grappling with a number of unanswered questions after tragedy descended on a Greenwood County home Tuesday evening, where an apparent hostage standoff ended with a

mass murder-suicide.

Dozens of Greenwood County deputies and investigators swarmed the Greenwood residence in the 2000 block of Callison Highway about 6 p.m. after gunshots rang out and reports indicated several people were bound with duct tape inside the home.

A law enforcement official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, indicated six people were found dead inside the home Tuesday

night. The source identified Bryan E. Sweatt, a 27-year-old Greenwood man, as the suspected hostage-taker, indicating he was among those found dead. GCSO officials could not immediately confirm how the six died.

Greenwood County Sheriff Tony Davis said four adults and two children were among the dead. He estimated the adult victims appeared to be between mid-40s to early 50s.

"We have several deceased," said Davis, who was visibly shaken at the horrific crime scene. "At this point, I can't tell you who the people are that are deceased, other than there's more than one."

Armed officers waited outside the cottage, which sat secluded on a plot amid the wooded countryside, for hours as negotiators attempted to make contact with

◆ SEE GREENWOOD PAGE A5

ILLEGAL LIQUOR



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHJ.COM

Union County Sheriff David Taylor talks Tuesday during a news conference at the sheriff's department about how his department seized 254 gallons of moonshine and tens of thousands of dollars. At back are containers filled with the moonshine.

Deputies seize 254 gallons of moonshine at Union home

Thousands in cash also found; 89-year-old, his son arrested

By JENNY ARNOLD

jennifer.arnold@shj.com

UNION — Union County deputies seized 254 gallons of moonshine and tens of thousands of dollars Tuesday at a home shared by an 89-year-old man and his son.

Yellow jackets buzzed around the bed of a pickup truck parked near the Union County Courthouse Tuesday afternoon — attracted to the sweet aroma



"Preach" Harris



James Harris

the Harris home. Both men were home at the time and were arrested without incident.

Three gallons of moonshine were found in the refrigerator. Another 54 gallons were recovered from a storage room in the carport, and 197 gallons were found inside a cattle barn on the property.

Deputies also seized about \$40,000 in cash from

HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL

Blame game abounds

Latest problem: Cancellation notices for those buying their own insurance

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Move over, website woes. Lawmakers confronted the Obama administration Tuesday with a difficult new health care problem — a wave of cancellation notices hitting individuals and small businesses who buy their own insurance.

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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 95, NO. 179

■ Gunman identified
as Bryan E. Sweatt, 27

■ Reports: People were
bound with duct tape

6 DEAD

Bodies discovered following reported hostage situation



MATT BRUCE / INDEX-JOURNAL



EARLY EXIT

Sumter High girls tennis team falls to Aiken in state playoff opener. B1

The Item

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

Women plead guilty to conspiracy

Dentist catches mail fraud of insurance company; 8 accused in case

BY JADE ANDERSON
janderson@theitem.com

A Sumter woman and a Santee woman are among the eight who recently plead guilty to conspiracy to com-

mit mail fraud that bilked Blue Cross Blue Shield out of \$368,000.

Lorraine Porcher, 46, of Sumter, and Kimberly Donaldson Broughton, 33, of Santee, reportedly worked

with Malentha Robinson-Taylor, 45, of Cordova, to file false insurance claims out of an Orangeburg-based dentist office.

"The dentist realized it," said Assistant U.S. Attorney

Winston David Holliday Jr. "Malentha was out, and he noticed he was getting explanation of benefits for patients he didn't remember seeing."

The way the scheme

worked is that Robinson-Taylor identified some friends with state insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield, he said. Because the

SEE FRAUD, PAGE A8

CENTURY-OLD BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED



MATT WALSH / THE ITEM

ABOVE: Leroy House of Carolina Wrecking stands between two cranes in the process of bringing down the former Maxway and CitiTrends buildings on Tuesday.

RIGHT: This artist rendering shows what the green space that will replace the buildings will look like. Officials hope a hotel to host convention-based events will occupy the area.

Green space coming; officials hope hotel will locate downtown

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

After nearly a year of planning, the downtown streetscape is undergoing a significant change.

While not immediately visible from Main Street, the demolition of the former Maxway and Citi-

House is well underway, with large machinery in the process of knocking down the exterior walls.

Howie Owens, downtown development manager for the city, said the current target date for completion is in late December. This will come about four months after



Board focuses on integration of standards

Administrator says no major issues seen so far with Common Core

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

The implementation of Common Core standards is going relatively smoothly, with most of the teachers within the district supporting the efforts, the district administrator in charge of the effort told the Sumter School District Board of Trustees at their last meeting.

All school districts throughout South Carolina will enact the nationwide academic standards beginning with the 2014-15 school year, and Joan Sagona, assistant superintendent for instruction for the local district, said the local administration is working hard to make sure all parents and teachers are prepared for the implementation.

"We have a lot of things in place to support our teachers. That has been the goal," Sagona said.

Common Core is an attempt, first organized by the National Governors Association, to nationalize educational standards. At this time, 45 states have agreed to adopt the standards, although the efforts have come under some criticism. Arguments against the system have come from across the political spectrum and have included beliefs that the effort undermines states' ability to govern their own educational systems, while others have argued the effort de-emphasizes creative, yet important, educational opportunities for students, such as the arts.

Interim superintendent Dr. Frank Baker said despite the



FINISHING STRONG
Swinney says best is yet to come for Tigers. C1

HEALTH: *Save your teeth from sugar this Halloween. B1*

WORLD | NATION: *Health policy cancellations new blow for administration. D1*

Woman sentenced in bomb threat case



Griggs

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — A Seneca woman will spend three years in prison after entering a guilty plea Tuesday in connection with a rash of bomb threats earlier this year in the Seneca area and on the campus of Clemson University.

Melissa Ann Griggs pleaded guilty to 30 bomb threats that were made by phone over a two-week period in late January and early February. No bombs were ever found.

Griggs was sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Larry Hyman Jr. to 10 years in prison, suspended to three years followed by five years probation.

Griggs was charged in February with 30 counts of mak-

ing a bomb threat or conveying false information about a bomb threat after the calls, which occurred between Jan. 30 and Feb. 11.

Two of the charges were threats made against the Hendrix Student Center

on the Clemson University campus — one on Jan. 30 and another on Feb. 4. After both reports, the student center was searched but no explosive devices were found.

SEE BOMB THREAT, PAGE A7

Walhalla candidates get in last licks

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The moderator of Tuesday night's Walhalla council candidates' forum summed up his assessment of the participants' performances at the conclusion of the hour-long question and answer event.

"They all did a good job ... the choice now becomes yours, and I wish you good luck in making that choice, because it looks as if you're going to have a hard one," said Tim Merrell, a Seneca-based attorney with deep roots in Walhalla.

The event, organized by the Walhalla Area Chamber of Commerce, almost filled The Depot on Kaufmann Square as voters turned out to see and hear from candidates looking to fill seats on the Walhalla City Council.

The candidates — incumbent Jennifer Woodward Crawford and challengers Frances Devoe, Chris Grant, Kathy Rogers and Duane Wilson, a former Walhalla City councilman — were given two minutes for an opening statement, answered questions submitted by voters that were read by Merrell, and had one minute to wrap up with a final statement.

Another candidate, incumbent Josh Holliday, missed the event to participate in an induction ceremony for school principals. He heads Keowee Elementary School. Merrell read a statement from Holliday that highlighted his accomplishments and goals if re-elected.

SEE WALHALLA, PAGE A7

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Construction permits at highest point in several years

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

Confidence in the local housing market appears to be growing as more building permits are being issued for new homes and other construction, giving officials reason to be optimistic for another strong year in 2014.

"We've seen 2013 is a stronger year than we've had in the past couple of years, suggesting there's an upswing," said Josh Stephens, Oconee County zoning administrator. "As a nation, we're coming out of the Great Recession slower than we would all want, but I think we've seen some signs that we're coming out of it, and you see that on the local level here in Oconee and in the Upstate region."

Records before this week in

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first of a multi-part series on the market for building new homes in Oconee and Pickens counties.



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

A construction employee works on the site of a new home being built in Oconee County, one of 191 new home permits that have been issued in the county in 2013. Local officials are pointing to numbers showing Oconee with its most construction activity it has seen in five years.

Oconee County showed that permits for new construction have reached 191 in 2013 and 1,201 in all building permits so far this year. The number of new home permits issued is

the most since 2005 were pulled through October 2009 and the most total permits since 1,564

SEE BUILDING, PAGE A6



'She's going to be really pretty'



GO NUTS It's not too late to enter the SC Pecan Festival cook-off. **Page 1C**

10th Annual
SOUTH CAROLINA
PECAN
FESTIVAL
TODAY'S
WEATHER
Mostly sunny, nice,
high 80, low 53
DETAILS 2A

Morning News

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2013

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Penny tax supporters get word out



A Keep The Penny campaign sign on Park Avenue on Tuesday in Florence. More than 2,000 signs funded privately by the Keep The Penny Inc. campaign have cropped up throughout the county as the penny tax referendum goes before voters next Tuesday.

Signs crop up asking voters to 'Keep the Penny'

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Campaign advertisements and signs are hoping to get voters thinking about the Capital Projects Sales Tax, known as the penny tax, that will be on the ballot next Tuesday.

A grass-roots advertising campaign paid for by Keep The Penny Inc. is funded by several private donors and organized by James Schofield, but not in his capacity as chairman of Florence County Council.

"When they (the state Supreme Court) said it was le-



Penny Tax Vote
Nov. 5

gal, people called me and said, 'We want to give money to get yard signs, to do advertising, to get the word out about the vote,'" Schofield said. "A group of people came together and

put this thing together at the last minute."

No taxpayer money or county resources are supporting the campaign, Schofield said. It is funded purely for \$15,000 in private donations from 10 donors.

Schofield alone pledged \$3,000 to the last-minute campaign that was delayed pending word from the state Supreme Court on a lawsuit against the county regarding the tax. The court threw out the suit Oct. 17, ruling 5-0 against the state's request for the referendum to be dropped from the ballot.

See **PENNY**, Page 4A

Health policy cancellations new blow for White House

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Move over, website woes. Lawmakers confronted the Obama administration Tuesday with a difficult new health care problem — a wave of cancellation notices hitting small businesses and individuals who buy their own insurance.

At the same time, the federal official closest to the website apologized for its dysfunction in new sign-ups and asserted things are getting better by the day.

Medicare chief Marilyn Tavenner said it's not the administration but insurers who are responsible for cancellation letters now reaching many of the estimated 14 million people who buy individual policies. And, officials said, people who get cancellation notices will be able to find better replacement plans, in some cases for less.



Tavenner

The Associated Press, citing the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, reported in May that many carriers would opt to cancel policies this fall and issue new ones. Administratively that was seen as easier than changing existing plans to comply with the new law, which mandates coverage of more services and provides better financial protection against catastrophic illnesses.

While the administration had ample warning of the cancellations, they could become another public relations debacle for President Barack Obama's signature legislation. This problem goes to the credibility of one of the president's earliest promises about the health care overhaul: You can keep your plan if you like it.

In the spring, state insurance commissioners started giving in-

SAFETY FIRST



PHOTOS BY JONAH RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

Honda associate Christopher Harrison welds a front frame component for the new Pioneer 700 multi-passenger all-terrain vehicle Tuesday at the Honda of South Carolina manufacturing facility in Timmonsville. Honda SC was recognized by EHS Today as one of the safest 16 companies in the nation.

Honda of SC earns high marks



Publication ranks plant in Timmonsville as one of the safest in the US

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

TIMMONSVILLE — Honda of South Carolina has been named one of the safest companies to work for in the U.S., according to one publication. It is the first time any of the



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013

The Times and Democrat

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Ott wins father's seat

Calhoun, Orangeburg voters
carry House 93 for Democrat

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Over two-thirds of those who voted in Tuesday's special election for House District 93 chose Democrat Russell Ott over Republican Charles "Charlie" Stoudemire.

"It feels good, it feels great!" beamed Ott at a victory celebration at Unique Sensations Social Hall, just on the outskirts of St. Matthews.

Ott's father, Harry Ott, served Dis-

More news coverage, A2

trict 93 for 15 years before stepping down to become the state executive director of the federal Farm Service Agency.

One year remained on his unexpired House term and the winner of Tuesday's special election will finish out the elder Ott's term.

"I'm excited. I'm ready to go to work. I'm ready to go to work for each and every one of you," the newly-elected

lawmaker said to a crowd of supporters as election returns poured in indicating that he was the winner.

District 93 is comprised of all of Calhoun County and portions of Orangeburg and Lexington counties.

Unofficial results from the S.C. Election Commission show that Ott received 1,898 votes to Stoudemire's 894.

See ELECTION, A1



LARRY HARRY/T&D

Russell Ott makes a victory speech in St. Matthews after winning the S.C. House District 93 seat. His father, former House Minority Leader Harry Ott, can be seen at left.

Man faces attempted murder charges, more following police chase

T&D Staff Report

A suspect who was the subject of a manhunt that kept Bamberg County and state law enforcement officers busy Monday afternoon is being held in the Bamberg County Detention Center pending a bond hearing Wednesday.

Tracy David Cook, 39, of 115 East St., Beech Island, was arrested Monday on charges of reckless driving, driving under suspension, possession of a Schedule IV controlled drug (Carisoprodol), possession of tools used in a crime, possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine within proximity of a school and three counts of attempted murder.

The Bamberg County Sheriff's Office received a call at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday from a man reporting he was behind a vehicle he had recently recorded on his video security system during a theft. He said the man he was pursuing had stolen two trailers from him. He said the alleged thief was heading into Bamberg in a green Nissan truck.

Deputies, with assistance from S.C. Department of Natural Resources officers, caught up with the truck and pursued the suspect, later identified as Cook, as he traveled down Bridge Street in Bamberg.

According to the incident report, Cook drove to Ziggy's Motel, committing numerous traffic violations along the way. Deputies pulled in behind him as he came to a stop in the motel parking lot and attempted to make contact with him.

Cook, however, refused to exit the vehicle as requested by officers. Instead, he put his truck in reverse and backed up toward some officers, spinning his tires, the report states. Realizing he was blocked in, Cook pulled forward, then put his truck in reverse again, backing up at full throttle toward three officers, according to the report.

Sheriff Edward Darnell said a DNR officer fired his weapon at that time in an effort to disable the suspect's

See MANHUNT, A5

Woman was set on fire

Man charged
in attack on
his girlfriend

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

Bond was denied Tuesday on an Orangeburg man charged with setting his girlfriend on fire after splashing her with rubbing alcohol.

Terrence Glenn, 33, was charged with criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature after his 39-year-old girlfriend was taken to Augusta's burn center.

"You have a right to appeal to a circuit court judge," Orangeburg County Magistrate Mervie Williamson told Glenn. "Do you have any questions for me?"

Glenn did not have an attorney and waived his right to representation in order that the hearing could go on.

Glenn was taken into custody early Tuesday after the

See BURNED, A5



LARRY HARRY/T&D

Terrence Glenn, of Bowman, appeared in Orangeburg County Law Enforcement Center courtroom Tuesday to face charges of criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature.

ONLINE
@TheTandD.com

View video from Terrence Glenn's court appearance at TheTandD.com/gallery

Facilities, communication
topics in OCSD 4 race



Norway candidates
seek to restore town



The T&D's series of articles about upcoming town and school board elections continues today.

Brian Symmes

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