

From: Veldran, Katherine  
To: kveldran@gmail.com <kveldran@gmail.com>  
Date: 6/5/2015 1:11:48 PM  
Subject: FW: SC Front Pages – Friday, June 5, 2015

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**From:** Symmes, Brian  
**Sent:** Friday, June 05, 2015 12:48 PM  
**Subject:** SC Front Pages – Friday, June 5, 2015

**SC Front Pages – Friday, June 5, 2015**

# The Post and Courier

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Friday, June 5, 2015

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## S.C. takes 'first step' on domestic violence

Leaders celebrate milestone, say there is still much to be done



PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

Key advocates surround Gov. Nikki Haley as she signs the domestic violence bill into law on Thursday at the Statehouse in Columbia. Leaders acknowledge the law falls short of being a comprehensive solution, but say it represents a real milestone for the state.

BY CYNTHIA BOLDAN  
cboldan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina on Thursday took a step toward better protecting victims and punishing batterers after more than a decade as one of the deadliest states for women at the hands of men.

Surrounded by lawmakers who fought for tougher penalties and a path to gun ban for offenders and victims' advocates in the Statehouse lobby, Gov. Nikki Haley signed the domestic violence reform bill passed by the House and Senate after months of brutal marriage and negotiations.

"A huge statement is being made today and that is that South Carolina is no longer looking about the extremity of the abuse," Haley said. "South Carolina is looking about strengthening the survivors."

State Attorney General Alvin Wilson, who lobbied lawmakers to give police the tools they needed to lock up repeat offenders and get others into treatment, said Thursday the law represents a milestone for South Carolina.

"While the bill is not perfect and is not the last measure of domestic violence reform needed, it is a game first step in combating domestic violence."

Please see **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**, Page A7



The bill waits for Haley's signature Thursday at the Statehouse.

**pc** **Online**  
Read the Post and Courier's special investigative report at [go.postandcourier.com/1111Deaths](http://go.postandcourier.com/1111Deaths). For more resources and to share your stories, go to [facebook.com/SC1111Deaths](http://facebook.com/SC1111Deaths).

**Pol**  
Will the criminal domestic violence bill signed into law Thursday make South Carolina a safer state for women? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls/to-vote](http://postandcourier.com/polls/to-vote).

## Clock runs out for S.C. priorities

BY CYNTHIA BOLDAN and SCHUYLER KROFT  
The Post and Courier

COLUMBIA — Time expired on state lawmakers Thursday without a permanent fix for South Carolina's sagging road problems, no ethics reform or a budget.

But there was good news: pointing out who brought the Legislature to a halt, with representatives blaming an end-of-session filibuster in the Senate that stopped debate and votes.

Please see **PRIORITIES**, Page A10

## Hackers steal data of federal workers

Chinese suspected in breach that has affected millions

BY KEN DILANIAN and RICARDO ALONSO ZALDIVAR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — China-based hackers are suspected of breaking into the computer networks of the U.S. government personnel office and stealing identifying information of at least 10 million federal workers, American officials said Thursday.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that data from the Office of Personnel Management and the Interior Department had been compromised.

"The FBI is conducting an investigation to identify how and why this occurred," the statement said.

The hackers were believed to be based in China, said Sen. Scott Collins, a Maine Republican.

Collins, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, said the breach was "yet another indication of a foreign power probing successfully and learning on what appears to be data that would identify people with security clearances."

A U.S. official who declined to be identified said the data breach could potentially affect every federal agency. One key question is whether intelligence agency employee information was stolen.

"This is an attack against the nation," said Sen. Al Franken, chief strategy officer of Bloomberg, who said the attack fit the pattern of those caused out by nation states for the purpose of

Please see **HACKERS**, Page A10

## Schools chief field down to 3 finalists

Herring, Postlewait, Broeden in running

BY ATLANTA SERR  
atlantapostandcourier.com

The Charleston County School Board on Thursday named three finalists for superintendent, choosing a longtime district administrator, a Virginia educator and a candidate likely to be met with skepticism by those who have questioned the integrity of the search.

The finalists to replace former Superintendent Mark McWhirter are Charleston County Deputy Superintendent of Academics Jonathan Herring, former Liberty County Superintendent Gail Postlewait and Terri Broeden, assistant superintendent of the department of instruction for Loudoun County Public Schools in Ashland, Va.

The 43,000-student district, the second largest in the state, has been led by

Please see **CANDIDATES**, Page A11

### Inside



**SPORTS**  
Clendon parts ways with longtime baseball coach, C1

**LOCAL**  
Obstruction charge, arrest in Griffin shopping case, B3

**BUSINESS**  
Former Force Protection campus gets \$22M, B1

## Tiny park gets an elegant makeover

BY ROBERT BEHRE  
rbehre@postandcourier.com

For two decades, David Rawls thought about improving the overgrown and uncared-for lot at George and Anson streets, just around the corner from his Autism-borough home.

After he retired from the public relations and marketing firm that bears his name, Rawls decided he did more than just thinking. The city will hold a small ceremony Saturday to celebrate the result.

Theodore Park — newly renamed in honor Rawls' mother — is one of Charleston's most unique pocket parks. It's not the first to feature art alongside nature, it's certainly the first to have its own website, Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter.

Please see **PARK**, Page A6



Edward Stella takes his dog for a walk in Theodore Park downtown.

### Park dedication

What: Dedication for Theodore Park  
Where: 10:30 a.m. Saturday  
Where: George and Anson streets



Forecast from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Today: 85-95  
Tomorrow: 85-95  
Friday: 85-95  
Saturday: 85-95  
Sunday: 85-95

Bridge: 81  
Columbia: 81  
Florence: 81  
Greenville: 81  
Hartsville: 81  
Lancaster: 81  
Lexington: 81  
Mauldin: 81  
Myrtle Beach: 81  
North Charleston: 81  
Rock Hill: 81  
Summerville: 81  
Walterboro: 81  
Yemassee: 81



**Zest Grill**  
Pay \$10 to spend \$20  
See Page A2







## Biker with a message

Priest ministers with his motorcycle D1

# Herald-Journal

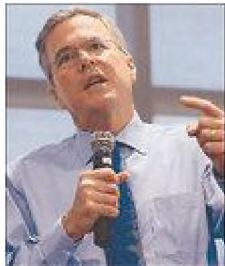
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HJ  
IN A HURRY

5 Things  
to read  
today



### In the race

Jeb Bush stepped into the Republican race for president on Thursday, finally taking his place amid an unwieldy field of GOP candidates unlike any in recent memory. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry also joined the fray. **PAGE A4**

### Government hacked

China-based hackers are suspected of breaking into the computer networks of the U.S. government personnel office and stealing identifying information of at least 4 million federal workers, American officials said Thursday. **PAGE A3**

### Refugees

Local churches are welcoming refugees who recently arrived here. Jason Lee, director of World Relief Spartanburg, said two refugees from the Congo arrived in Spartanburg in late May. **PAGE C1**

### Limestone dorm

Limestone officials broke ground on the 200-bed, \$8.75 million Walter W. Brown Residence Hall on Thursday morning. Construction should be complete by the fall 2016 semester. **PAGE E3**

### Reverse mortgages

We've seen the TV ad pitches from celebrities touting the benefits of reverse mortgages for older homeowners. Now U.S. regulators are warning: Don't be fooled. Many ads don't tell the whole story about reverse mortgages. **PAGE C4**

## SC gets tough on domestic abuse

Governor calls law first step in altering culture of violence

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's new domestic violence law marks a first step in changing a culture that has quietly ignored abuse, Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday, just before she signed the bill.

The law increases penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders based on the severity of the attack, the number of prior offenses and other factors, like whether the victim was strangled, is pregnant or was abused with children nearby. It replaces an old system that based punishment mostly on the number of offenses.

It also imposes a lifetime gun ban on the worst abusers and an automatic three- or 10-year ban in other cases.

Haley said the new law works well with the task force she created to fight the long-ignored problem in South Carolina. The state often ranks at the top of the nation for the number of domestic



Gov. Nikki Haley speaks before signing the state's new domestic violence bill into law on Thursday in Columbia. The new law increases penalties for domestic violence and has a gun ban for abusers.

violence deaths, a statistic advocates blame as much on a culture that tries to hide domestic violence problems as on lenient laws favoring abusers.

"We are working hard to make sure domestic violence is no longer

a whisper — that it is something we actively talk about on a daily basis," Haley said, surrounded by more than 50 lawmakers and supporters of the new law.

◆ SEE DOMESTIC PAGE A7

## Body cam bill makes it to governor

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A bill giving guidelines for police body cameras in South Carolina was sent to the governor's desk Thursday, two months after officials were stunned into action by the shooting of an unarmed driver as he ran from a North Charleston police officer.

The measure gives police agencies about a year to create body camera policies, which will be reviewed by the state Law Enforcement Training Council made up of prosecutors and law enforcement personnel.

The policy on body cameras has to address which officers will wear the equipment, when the cameras should and should

◆ SEE CAMERAS PAGE A7

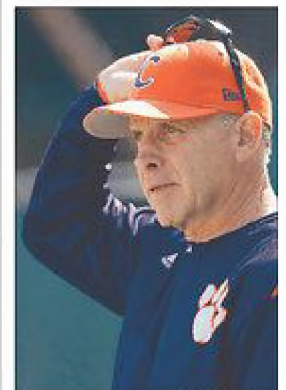
## MEETING A NEED



Students participating in a summer camp at Faith Tabernacle dined on hamburgers, oranges and carrot slices with milk on Thursday afternoon. The site is one of several offering free meals and summer camps for Spartanburg District 7 students.

## Schools offer 2 meals a day for

## CLEMSON BASEBALL



Clemson has fired head baseball coach Jack Leggett after 22 years. The move comes five days after Clemson's season ended with consecutive NCAA tournament losses at the Fullerton (Calif.) Regional.

## Leggett out as







He's out! Leggett's time at Clemson comes to an end  
Sports 1B

# INDEX-JOURNAL

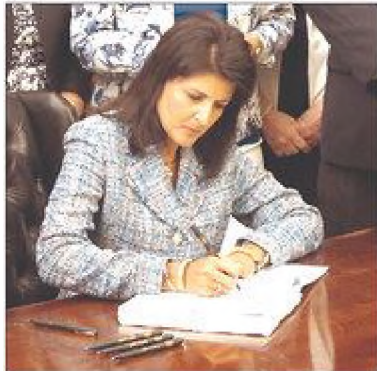
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www.indexjournal.com

3 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50



ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signs the state's new domestic violence bill into law on Thursday in Columbia. The new law increases penalties for domestic violence and has a gun ban for batterers.

## Changing culture Haley lauds new domestic violence law

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

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"We are working hard to

See CULTURE, page 3A

"We are working hard to make sure domestic violence is no longer a whisper."

— NIKKI HALEY  
governor

### ■ CAMPAIGN 2016

## Duncan not ready to endorse anyone

By COLIN RIDDLE  
criddle@indexjournal.com

With Sen. Lindsey Graham announcing his presidential candidacy Monday, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry announcing Thursday and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie traveling the state this past week, there is no need for explanation.

It's that time again for presidential hopefuls and party members to unleash on one another for the next year and a half until things can be settled in a general election.



JEFF DUNCAN

South Carolina's senior U.S. senator (Graham) is in and has unleashed attacks on Democratic candidate and former secretary of state Hillary Rodham Clinton, while South Carolina's 3rd District U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan of Laurens waxes on which member of his party to endorse, which is currently stacked with 10 Republican primary candidates.

Speaking to the media Thursday, Duncan said he spoke with Graham about a month ago about his testing-the-waters decision, but has not spoken with him recently.

"I'm not engaging in endorsing anyone at this time," Duncan said.

'Some of us will go on to do great things'

## LEAVING ON A POSITIVE NOTE



The class of 2015 throws its caps into the air at the end of Ninety Six High School's commencement ceremony Thursday evening.



AT THE STATEHOUSE

## Session ends with a whimper

By SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's legislative session drew to a close Thursday without a state budget and with most of lawmakers' priority issues left undone.

Lawmakers of both parties called it a disappointing session, particularly since the effort to fix South Carolina's roads and bridges collapsed in the Senate.

"I'm extremely disappointed."

The biggest issue

to the people of

South Carolina

is roads — the

condition, the

potholes, the

backups, the

deplorable con-

dition of the

interstates, and

that issue is not

resolved," said

Senate Minority

Leader Nikki

Setzer, D-West

Columbia.

State law

required the

regular session to

end at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Lawmakers return for a

special, three-day session June 16.

A second special session is a

near-certainty. But their work is

limited to the state budget and bills

that passed both chambers with

differences that can be worked

### By the book

■ According

to state

law, the

legislature

session

had to end

by 5 p.m.

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■ The

legislature

will

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June 16 for

a special

session.







**SUCCESS DOUBLED** Hartsville's Drotar named S.C. Gatorade Player of the Year for again. **Page 1D**

# Morning News

FRIDAY JUNE 5, 2015

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Clouds giving way to some sun.  
High 83, low 66  
DETAILS 2A

www.scnnews.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 CENTS

**HANNAH-PAMPLICO CLASS OF 2015**

## 'More than conquerors'



Jeffery Chandler Johnson looks at his diploma during commencement exercises Thursday night at Hannah-Pamplico High School. Johnson was one of 69 students in the Class of 2015.

PHOTOS BY MELISSA ROLLS FOR SCN NEWS

## Students earn record amount of scholarship money

BY MELISSA ROLLS  
Morning News  
mrolls@scnnews.com

### PAMPLICO

Family and friends packed the Hannah-Pamplico High School gym Thursday night as 69 seniors walked across the stage to get their diplomas. Even though the district is small, the achievement of the students was great: the graduating seniors have been awarded \$1,372,546 in scholarship money from schools like The Citadel, Clemson University and Columbia College as well as organizations such as the Army ROTC and The Boys and Girls Club.

The Class of 2015 broke the school record for the amount of scholarship

### INSIDE

▶ Hartsville High's graduation. **3A**  
▶ Marion County School District's graduations. **4A**  
▶ Darlington High's graduation. **5A**



A student dances her way out the door after graduating from Hannah-Pamplico High School on Thursday night.

See **GRADUATION**, Page 4A

## Wilson student accepts \$140,000 in scholarships

BY NICOLE CARTHETTE  
Morning News  
ncarthette@scnnews.com

FLORENCE — Amanda Stevenson doesn't believe that bigger is always better.

The Wilson High School senior had her heart set on attending a smaller college and when Fiske College offered a variety of scholarships totaling \$140,000 dur-



selected to be a Presidential Scholar, she was thrilled that Fiske put together an impressive scholarship package and made a personal call to her that night.

"I really got a feel for the campus, and everybody was super nice there, and those are the type of people I want to be around in college," Stevenson said. "I feel like in a small school you get to meet

## Haley signs domestic violence bill into law

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's new domestic violence law marks a first step in changing a culture that has quietly ignored abuse, Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday, just before she signed the bill.

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"We are working hard to make sure domestic violence is no longer a whisper

See **LAW**, Page 6A

## Florence County Council moves to finance new courthouse

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@scnnews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence County Council introduced an ordinance Thursday that, if approved, will save taxpayers money in the long run on a new judicial center but will affect pocketbooks this year.

In a brief called meeting, an ordinance to increase county debt service millage 1.1 mills to 3.6 mills for 2016 fiscal year was introduced. The move is the first step to saving \$12 million on the up to \$42 million installment purchase of revenue bonds for the new courthouse.

Those bonds will be issued later this month through the Florence County Public Facilities Corporation, a nonprofit entity that the county will pay annually for the next 20 years.

An ordinance to issue a general obligation bond of up to \$275,000 for the first bond payment was also introduced.

In the future, annual repayments will be somewhere near \$3 million — a figure that will be solidified later this month when the





# THE ISLAND PACKET

FRIDAY, June 5, 2015



Hilton Head Island • Bluffton

75 cents

"My life is not on hold anymore. Not only can I function again, but I know that I can do anything I set my mind to." Jared Rigdon, after losing 100 pounds



DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Jared Rigdon lifts weights at Powerhouse Gym on Thursday afternoon in Bluffton. Rigdon recently lost 100 pounds and won \$1,000 for being the biggest loser in a competition held by the gym.

100  
for \$1,000

Bluffton teen wins local Biggest Loser contest

By SARAH BOWMAN • sbowman@beaufortgazette.com • 843-206-8138

Jared Rigdon is feeling quite a bit thinner these days, but his wallet just got much fatter.

The 19-year-old from Bluffton traded 100 pounds for \$1,000 — a pretty good deal, he said.

But even more, his transformation has put future goals in reach.

"My life is not on hold anymore," said Rigdon, who

in greater Bluffton last year, he had no clue he would lose so much weight, let alone win the fitness center's second Biggest Loser contest.

A medical condition — later discovered to be heavy metal toxicity — forced Rigdon to leave Bluffton High School, leave the Junior ROTC program and leave the sports he participated in. In the two years it took doctors to determine the cause of

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN S.C.

# New law makes penalty stronger

### Staff and wire reports

A domestic violence bill that creates higher penalties for repeat offenders and bans gun ownership by abusers was signed into law Thursday by Gov. Nikki Haley, and Beaufort County supporters of the legislation are calling it a strong first step.

The new law will create stronger penalties for repeat domestic violence offenders based on the severity of the attack and the number of prior offenses. It replaces a system that focused punishments mostly on the number of offenses.

Other factors, such as whether the victim was strangled, pregnant or abused in front of children, will also determine how the penalties are decided.

State law will now ban the highest-level offenders from purchasing guns. Lesser charges will come with a three-year or 10-year gun ban. To restore gun rights, lower-level offenders would have to meet the FBI's criteria to be removed from its national database.

Haley said the new law would be a first step in changing a culture that had quietly ignored abuse.

Please see PENALTY on 7A

## Body camera bill heads to Haley's desk

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A bill giving guidelines for police body cameras in South Carolina was sent to the governor's desk Thursday, two months after officials were stormed into action by the shooting of an unarmed driver as he ran from a North Charleston police officer.

The measure gives police agencies about a year to create body camera policies, which will be reviewed by the state Law Enforcement Training Council made up of prosecutors and law enforcement personnel.

The policy on body cameras lies to address which officers will wear the equip-







## SPORTS, 1C COACH IS OUT



## E GREENVILLE Upstate farms open their doors

# The Greenville News

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FRIDAY,  
JUNE 5, 2015  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY UKRAINE, RUSSIA TRADE BARBS AMID SIGNS OF NEW OFFENSIVE PAGE 1B

## Platinum Plus may reopen

Order: Strip club must agree to monitoring guidelines inside business

ROMANCO DIXSON

STAFF WRITER

RDIXSON@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Platinum Plus Greenville will remain closed until November, then the strip club will be allowed to reopen with "mandatory enhanced monitoring" inside the business, according to a consent order filed Thursday.

The consent order also stipulates that Elephant Inc., which owns Platinum Plus, pay \$50,000 to Greenville County for legal costs associated with a lawsuit in April that sought to close the business permanently. Elephant Inc., according to the court document, also agreed to pay \$6,500 for an independent company to monitor the business for a year and \$10,000 to Switch, a nonprofit with the mission to end human trafficking in the Upstate.

"We continue to deny the allegations, however, we do understand the concerns raised by the county," Elephant Inc. said in a statement through one of its lawyers. "We believe it is in everyone's best interest to avoid costly litigation and are happy to have this matter resolved."

Elephant Inc. agreed to provide the Solicitor's Office and the Sheriff's Office enhanced monitoring rights of the business operations to ensure full compliance with the consent order. An independent company, selected by the Solicitor's Office, will monitor Platinum Plus for a year after it reopens, based on the terms of the settlement.

"El, at its expense, shall ensure video surveillance equipment exists sufficient to capture reviewable video footage of all places where dancers interact with customers inside the subject property," the consent order states. "This is to include but is not limited to the Champagne Room, the Couch Room, and all parts of the main floor."

The Solicitor's Office alleged the strip club was a public nuisance based on a yearlong undercover investigation. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office in recent months has charged Platinum Plus strippers with committing sexual acts in exchange for money and exposing their genitals at the nightclub, according to arrest warrants. Authorities have filed



Located in the former Brandon Mill in the Village of West Greenville, the GCCA contains exhibits, art studios and classroom space.



PHOTOS BY REID HERRINGTON/STAFF  
Paul Dumah Morgan of Dumah Design works in his studio at The Greenville Center for Creative Arts.

## A NEW SPACE TO CREATE

Greenville Center for Creative Arts offers classes, studio and exhibition space

PAUL HYDE

ARTS WRITER

PHYDE@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

In the big classroom at the Greenville Center for Creative Arts, the outlines of footprints can be clearly seen on the hardwood floor.

They've been there 30, 40, maybe 50 years now.

They mark the places where textile workers once stood, toiling over their work for countless hours, year after year, their weight gradually creating shoe-shaped indentations in the floor.

"We treasure these footprints," said Cherrington Shucker, executive director of the center. "They're a tribute to the legacy of the building."

As developers breathe new life into what was once the old Brandon Mill, they've tried to respect the history of the

"I see this as the next anchor in Greenville's prosperity."

CHERRINGTON SHUCKER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GREENVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

See ARTS, Page 5A



## Rawlings shares the power of information

DONNA ISRELL WALKER

STAFF WRITER

DWALKER@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Rhonda Rawlings developed her passion for community service at an early age.

When Rawlings was growing up, her mother worked for a social services agency, and she often brought home fos-

sored by PNC Bank on June 9 at the Kroger Center. The public is invited to take part in a discussion exploring the challenges faced by some in our community who are being left behind. This event will set the stage for a year-long examination by The Greenville News designed to light a path forward that bridges neighborhoods and celebrates our racial and ethnic diversity.

### YOU CAN GO

**What:** A public forum exploring the upstate Greenville, presented by The Greenville News and sponsored by PNC Bank.

**Who:** Speakers will be: Rhonda Rawlings, news and community affairs director for Summit Media Corp.; Mary







## Legislators file bill to clarify pipeline project parameters, 2A

# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, June 5, 2015

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 149, No. 156 Aiken, S.C. ★ ★ 75¢

# Suit filed over dash-cam video

## Aiken Standard presses for release of Craven footage



Craven

Saterwhite Sr.

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

The Aiken Standard is suing the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division and the City of North Augusta over a 2014 police dash-cam video they refuse to release.

S.C. Press Association attorney Jay Bender, who is representing the Aiken

Standard, filed the four-page complaint Thursday afternoon at the Aiken County Court of Common Pleas.

On the evening of Feb. 9, 2014, then North Augusta Department Public Safety officer Justin Craven shot and killed 68-year-old Edgefield County resident Ernest Saterwhite Sr., who was unarmed and sitting in his car. The incident occurred after Saterwhite led

Craven on a 1.8-mile police chase that began in North Augusta and ended on Saterwhite's driveway in Edgefield County.

The entirety of the incident was reportedly captured on dash-cam video, all of which, the Aiken Standard is seeking from the defendant's in the complaint.

In April, both SLED and the City of

North Augusta denied the Aiken Standard's Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, requests and refused to release any dash-cam video. The City of North Augusta stated that "the City is not the proper party to make a determination as to whether your request is subject to this exemption."

Please see **SUITS**, Page 5A

# Congratulations, Class of 2015



STAFF PHOTO BY CHIEF KUBORT

The Midland Valley graduating class of 2015 celebrates with a traditional hat throw Thursday at the USC Aiken Convocation Center.

BY LARRY WOOD  
AND BOB NOVIT  
lwood@aikenstandard.com  
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

Aiken County high school commencement is got underway at the USC Aiken Convocation Center on Thursday.

Silver Bluff, Midland Valley and North Augusta high school students received their diplomas, drawing cheers and tears from their families.

Aiken High School's ceremony is scheduled for today at 9 a.m., followed by Ridge Spring-Mauldin High at noon, South Aiken High at 3 p.m. and Wagener-Salley High

### COMING SATURDAY

The Aiken Standard will offer a special section Saturday with a full list of all Aiken County 2015 graduates.

School at 6 p.m.

### Silver Bluff High School

A total of 132 Silver Bluff seniors happily tossed their caps after receiving their diplomas at the USC Aiken Convocation Center on Thursday.

Addressing their classmates were valedictorian John Davis and salutatorian Jared Stephens. Senior class President Kippel Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Silver Bluff faculty members have a tradition during commencement — lining up after the ceremony to congratulate the seniors. Freshman graduate Skyanna Atkinson, that opportunity was as meaningful as she really hugged some of her teachers with gratitude.

"I was poor and didn't have anything," she said. "People had doubts about me, but I made it. Now I want to go to college and become a special-education teacher."

Cornel Hill, headed to Chowan University to play football, also appreciated that his favorite teachers were in the line to congratulate him.

Please see **GRADS**, Page 9A

### PHOTO GALLERIES

See more photos from graduations online at [aikenstandard.com/photos](http://aikenstandard.com/photos)

### PHOTOS INSIDE

Feature photos of recent graduates. See pages 8-9A.

### LIVE FEED

Watch graduations live online at [aikenstandard.com](http://aikenstandard.com) or on our Atlantic Broadband Channel 32.

### EDITORIAL

Proposals to increase funds, new chapter begins 13A

# Legislature fails to pass new budget; session ends



STAFF PHOTO BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

Aiken County Administrator Clay Killian has expressed frustration with the state's General Assembly over a lack of relief funding associated with a winter storm that hit the county in February 2014.

## No solution for ice storm funds

BY MICHAEL LUMER  
mlumer@aikenstandard.com

The South Carolina General Assembly's failure to pass a budget before the last day of the legislative session Thursday brought little comfort in questions surrounding relief funding for local governments, including Aiken County, hit hard by an ice storm in February 2014.

The Legislature's adjournment without approving a budget leaves the relief funding up for debate in legislative conference committee after the S.C. House last week rejected \$4.1 million in funding proposed and passed by the S.C. Senate last month. The conference committee includes three legislators from each chamber of the General Assembly, being tasked with resolving disagreements over the bill.

Aiken County Administrator Clay Killian said the ice storm relief funding should have "no-brainer" for lawmakers, particularly in a year when the state has more than a \$300 million budget surplus.

"The General Assembly should be helping local governments handle this massive amount of a cleanup," Killian said, referring to the absence of relief funding in the state's budget. He added the Aiken County celebration has "worked pretty hard" for the relief money, but the difficulty of getting the dollars appropriated shows how little the General Assembly, as a whole, seems to care about local

### AREA DEATHS

Col. Charles Barry Long, San Antonio, Texas  
Alfred Payton, Liberty, Missouri  
Victoria Brogden, Aiken  
Margaret "Maggie" D. Riedell, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER



Career Center's Molina



Local senior graduates



Aiken Beal chowing





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## SWAMP FOX QUILTERS GUILD

### Museum hosts annual quilting challenge

From local reports



Leah Malasky wins Best of Show and several other awards for her original design. The machine-quilted "Lonesome Beauty" on Thursday at The Swamp Fox Quilters Guild's Annual Challenge exhibit opened at the Hartsville Museum.

The Swamp Fox Quilters Guild's Annual Challenge exhibit is now being shown at the Hartsville Museum. The theme for the anticipated show is "Black and White Plus One."

Each of the entries was allowed to use the colors of black and white, plus one additional color to prepare the quilts. Several quilters chose red as their "plus one" color, but yellow was also a popular second choice.

The 30 entries displayed range in size from a small 12 3/4 inches by 8 inches to a large 92 inches by 139 inches. Two of the entries are available for sale.

The members of the guild selected Leah Malasky as winner of Best of Show on Thursday and for several other awards for her original design, the machine-quilted "Lonesome Beauty." Malasky, who has been quilting for 16 years, chose red, her favorite color, in addition to black and white.

Organized in 1980, the Swamp Fox Quilters Guild is composed of members from Hartsville, Florence, Dillon, Mullins, Conway, Marion, Lake City, Timmonsville, McBee, Garden City and Darlington. The guild sponsors a monthly meeting as well as a monthly "workday," where members gather to work on their own projects, have a

class or make community quilts.

One of the highlights of the year includes educating visitors about quilting at the "Re-enactment of the Skirmish at Gamble's Hotel" in Florence County.

The "Black and White Plus One" exhibit of the Swamp Fox Quilters Guild will be on location at the Hartsville Museum through Aug. 29. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. The Hartsville Museum is at 222 N. Fifth St.

For more information about the quilting group, visit [www.swampfoxquilters.com](http://www.swampfoxquilters.com).

## Watkins won't seek re-election

BY MELISSA ROLLINS  
D1 Media

DARLINGTON — Right away Tuesday night at the Darlington City Council meeting, Mayor Tony Watkins had two big announcements: Wal-Mart is coming to Darlington, and he will not be seeking re-election after his current term is up.



Watkins

In reference to the new Walmart, Watkins said that he has talked with Howard Gaskind, the city manager, and had confirmed the information himself.

"Before this meeting, Mr. Gaskind

See **WATKINS**, Page 8A

## Rep. Tom Rice hosting event for economic development

From local reports

FLORENCE — U.S. Rep. Tom Rice will host on Monday a free, communitywide economic development symposium, "By Land, Air, and Sea," for 7th District business leaders, elected officials and developers.

The event will highlight ongoing business projects and economic development initiatives in the district and feature two expert panels on surface infrastructure and aviation.

"Collaboration is key to improving our district's economy and attracting new business to our area," Rice

See **RICE**, Page 3A

## Lamar graduates 74



Robert Collins delivers a commencement speech Wednesday to Lamar High School's Class of 2015.

### Sentimental speeches highlight ceremony

BY CHRISTOPHER MCKAGEN  
[cmckagen@hartsvillemessenger.com](mailto:cmckagen@hartsvillemessenger.com)

LAMAR — Lamar High School conferred 74 diplomas Wednesday during its 2015 commencement exercises on the field of Donald R. Poole Stadium.

The brisk graduation lasted about 20 minutes and featured speeches from two of the Class of 2015's scholar graduates, Robert Hunter Collins and Carly van Copeland.

Collins spoke of the changes he experienced in his four years of studying at Lamar, and said the ceremony captured a special moment in the graduates' lives.

"It is very bittersweet, but at least we all get to share this one last memory together before we all go our own separate ways," he said. "We came into this school as kids, and now we are leaving as adults. It's amazing how much change can happen in four years. No matter where we go or what we do, we will always remember our high school experience in Lamar."

Copeland followed Collins with a deeply personal address,

See **LAMAR**, Page 3A



RIGHT: Lamar High School graduates exit Donald R. Poole Stadium on Wednesday after commencement exercises.



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