

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>  
To:  
Date: 3/4/2016 10:59:32 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages - Friday, March 4, 2016

---

SC Front Pages – Friday, March 4, 2016

# the Sumter ITEM

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

75 cents

## INSIDE

PBS' American Masters features 'Loretta Lynn: Still a Mountain Girl' A7

Sumter delinquent tax notices C1

## Sumter Habitat receives check for \$2K, help from students



Ohio Northern University student Taylor Berefsman, middle, cuts a piece of wood as Anna Croker, left, and Riley Sember hold the wood in place on the sawhorse. The students are in Sumter working on the Habitat For Humanity home during their spring break.

### Crew on spring break from Ohio Northern University works on local home

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS  
adrienne@theitem.com

Sumter Board of Realtors presented Sumter Habitat for Humanity with a check for a little more than \$2,000 on Thursday afternoon to help fund future affordable housing projects.

Darlene Hebert, executive director of Sumter Board of Realtors, said the grant was funded from sales of South Carolina Association of Realtors license plates.

Hebert said the board is excited it can contribute to the betterment of the Sumter community.

"We will always support the local Habitat mission," she said. Also on Thursday, Habitat had about 30 volunteers from Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, working on the 119th house in Fuller Gardens, the nonprofit's neighborhood site.

Theresa White, executive director of Habitat, said it costs about \$60,000 to build the three-bedroom house and about \$25,000 of

that cost is donated.

She said paint, doorknobs and other supplies are donated to the organization along with Whirlpool washers and dryers.

White said students are volunteering through the nonprofit's alternative spring break program called Collegiate Challenge.

The first group to make the trip to Sumter were students from Brock University of Saint Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

SEE HABITAT, PAGE A4

## SHS teacher hospitalized after wreck

Will Floyd teaches physical education and environmental science

BY JIM HILLEY  
jim@theitem.com

Will Floyd was only a few blocks from work Wednesday morning when his Harley Davidson motorcycle was struck by a car on McCrays Mill Road causing the Sumter High School science teacher to be hospitalized.

According to Sumter Police Department Public Information Office Tonya McGirt, a Dodge Journey was turning left onto McCrays Mill Road when it struck Floyd's motorcycle traveling south on McCrays Mill. Floyd was airlifted to Palmetto Health Richland and later transferred to the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Georgia.

A GoFundMe.com page created by Dustin Campbell said Floyd suffered a broken right arm in two places, a lacerated foot, two broken ribs, three fractured vertebrae and burns to his face and left arm. A long recovery is expected, Campbell said.

The driver of the Dodge, Ruby James, of Cherryvale, was not injured and is charged with failure to yield the right of way, McGirt said.

Sumter Public Schools Public Information Strategic Partnerships Coordinator Shelly Galloway said counseling has been made available to students who ask for assistance in dealing with the situation.

Galloway said Floyd has worked for Sumter Public Schools since February 2009 and was teaching physical science, international baccalaureate environmental systems and environmental studies at Sumter High.

Floyd's aunt, Lyn Barbour, who lives in Charlotte, said her nephew and his wife, Lauren, have an infant daughter, Emma, who is only a few months old.

"The kids adore him," she said of Floyd. "He's sweet; thoughtful; a great guy. He likes to ride motorcycles; and he was just in the wrong place at the right time."

Barbour said Floyd was scheduled for surgery Thursday morning but had not heard any additional news about how he is doing.

Administrators at Sumter Public Schools expressed their support for their co-worker.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Will and his family as he recovers from the injuries sustained in the accident," said Superintendent Frank Baker.

"We are definitely sorry to hear what happened," said the school's Principal Nicholas Pearson. "Naturally, the students do miss him and are waiting for him to get back as soon as possible."

Pearson said no official fundraising project has been set up to assist Floyd in dealing with his medical bills.

"Currently, everyone is directing their funds toward the GoFundMe page some of his friends started," Pearson said.

Any interested in donating may visit <https://www.gofundme.com/jf8y88s>. As of Thursday afternoon, more than \$9,000 had been pledged to help Floyd's pay expenses related to his injuries.



# USC MEN

**Bulldogs deny USC a win on Senior Night, 1B**



# USC WOMEN

**Honors no laughing matter for Aja Wilson 1B**



FRIDAY MARCH 4 2016

\$1.00

VOL. 126TH No. 16  
STAY CONNECTED [THESTATE.COM](http://THESTATE.COM)

FACEBOOK.COM/THETATENEWS  
TWITTER.COM/THETATE



TODAY: MOSTLY SUNNY HI 60 LO 38  
YESTERDAY: HI 59 LO 41 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.36"  
FORECAST, 10C

# The State

## FIXING OUR HIGHWAYS

# Republican SC House leader rips Senate GOP roads bill

**“NOBODY WHO’S HONEST WILL SAY THAT THIS ... FIXES THE ROADS PROBLEM.”**

Sen. Vincent Sheheen

“This plan kicks the can further down the road and into a giant pothole,” House Speaker Jay Lucas says of Senate proposal

Senate returns Tuesday to take up roads plan to spend an added \$400 million a year on roads without raising state’s gas tax

BY JAMIE SELF AND ANDREW SHAIN  
[jself@thestate.com](mailto:jself@thestate.com) and  
[ashain@thestate.com](mailto:ashain@thestate.com)

A state Senate Republican plan to spend \$400 million on roads without raising the gas tax is on a collision course with the

GOP-controlled S.C. House, despite winning the governor’s blessing Thursday.

“This plan kicks the can further down the road and into a giant pothole,” House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said of the proposal that Senate Republicans offered Wednesday, after

nearly a year of gridlock on a bill aimed at fixing the state’s roads and bridges.

“It’s not really a new idea, and it’s not a solution,” Lucas said of the Senate GOP plan, adding it is “unsettling” it took the Senate so long to get to this point.

Senate Democrats expressed similar concerns about the proposal, which senators will debate Tuesday.



Lucas

“Nobody who’s honest will say that this ... fixes the roads problem. I think it’s a fraud ... a fake,” said state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw.

“It’s really just a Patch Act” that will “raid the general fund” and other state programs, said state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland. “We’re putting a small-to medium-sized Band-Aid on a large problem.”

The Senate GOP plan to commit an added \$400 million a year in recurring state revenues to roads is unsustainable, some Republican and Democratic

lawmakers said.

That surplus money is only as reliable as the economy, they added. If the economy takes a dive — as it did during the Great Recession — the money will dry up, forcing deep cuts to roads and other state services.

The Senate GOP plan also fails to collect money from out-of-state drivers, who vacation in South Carolina or travel through on highways, several Republican legislators said.

SEE ROADS, 8A



## PALMETTO

## OF FELINES AND WINES

How a cat helped to inspire a new winery in South Carolina, 1C

## FLOOD OF 2015

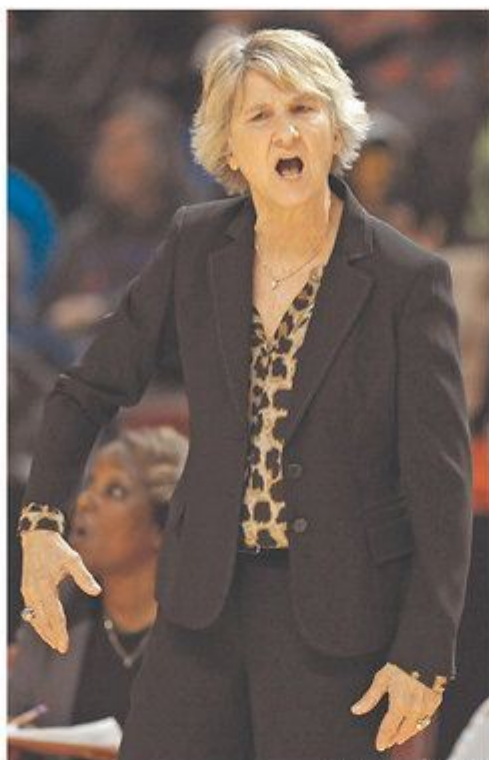
## Ghost town patrols: Police guard damaged homes

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN  
[gflanagan@thestate.com](mailto:gflanagan@thestate.com)

David Cornman has lived on California Street in Columbia, not far from Timberlane Drive, for 35 years.

He rebuilt his home when he moved in, and now he’s rebuilding it again after the October flood. But at the mo-

## WEEKEND OF CHAMPIONS



Spring Valley head coach Anne Long



Irmo head coach Tim Whipple

## Irmo, Spring Valley coaching legends could add even more state titles





# The Post and Courier

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

Friday, March 4, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

## Despite barbs, rivals say they'd back Trump

Rude remarks fly, but candidates all vow to support GOP front-runner if nominated

BY NANCY BENAC  
and DAVID EGGERT  
Associated Press

DETROIT — Picking up right where they left off, Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio barked out fresh insults at each other in a Republican presidential debate Thursday night that also featured a crude sexual reference from Trump — and an healthy dose of policy, too.

Cruz and Rubio, who earlier had devoted considerable debate time to throwing sharp elbows at one another, were relentless in training their fire on Trump.

Rubio justified his attacks on Trump by saying the billionaire busi-

**PC Poll**  
Who do you think won Thursday night's Republican debate? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](http://postandcourier.com/polls) to vote.

nessman had "basically mocked everybody" over the past year. Trump countered with a scint, saying he'd called Rubio a "lightweight" in the past but "he's really not that much of a lightweight."

Trump then noted that Rubio had mocked his hands as small, widely viewed as an insult about Trump's sexual prowess. Holding his hands up to the audience, Trump declared,

Please see **DEBATE**, Page A11



Mitt Romney, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee, said Donald Trump's "promises are as worthless as a degree from Trump University."

**Inside**

Brian Hicks: Haley politely making a national name for herself. A2

Scott focuses on S.C. at CPAC. A10

## Trump a dangerous 'phony' Romney tells GOP voters

BY STEVE PEOPLES  
and BRADY MCCOMBS  
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Former GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney said Thursday that the prospects for a safe future are "greatly diminished" if Donald Trump becomes the Republican nominee for president. Speaking at the University of Utah, Romney warned a packed auditorium that any of the other GOP candidates would be a better alternative to

the billionaire businessman. "The only serious policy proposals that deal with the broad range of national challenges we confront today, come from Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and John Kasich," Romney said of Trump's GOP rivals. "One of these men should be our nominee."

Romney is charging into the increasingly divisive White House race with a verbal lashing of Donald Trump and a plea for fellow Republicans to

Please see **ROMNEY**, Page A10

## Drilling off S.C. could harm sea turtle habitat

Findings on proposed leasing areas may be key for those fighting plan



Dewey, a loggerhead sea turtle, crawls to the ocean at Folly Beach County Park. Proposed offshore drilling could impact the species.

BY BO PETERSEN  
[bpetersen@postandcourier.com](mailto:bpetersen@postandcourier.com)

Female loggerhead turtles are moving to coastal waters to mate. The sea turtle nesting season is open in Florida, and the first nest could be laid in the Lowcountry in little more than a month.

Meanwhile, federal regulators are expected to announce in mid-March whether they will propose leasing the same waters to offshore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling. The correlation is staggering: 87 percent of the potential leasing area off South Carolina is considered

"These waters are too important. There's too much at risk."

Chris DeScherer,  
Southern Environmental Law Center

critical habitat for recently hatched juvenile turtles, the sargassum sea where they would feed. Off North Carolina, the percentage is 99 percent. On top of that, 90 percent of the South

Carolina waters are considered essential fish habitat, a valued tourism, recreational and commercial industry.

Those percentages have become a crucial piece of conservationists' opposition to the leasing. They were arrived at by geospatial analysis of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data by the Southern Environmental Law Center. The work recently was cited by NOAA Digital Coast as an example of how its data is used.

Please see **DRILLING**, Page A7

## 60,000 in S.C. may lose food stamps

Those not raising kids must be employed

BY LAUREN SAUSSER  
[lsausser@postandcourier.com](mailto:lsausser@postandcourier.com)

About 60,000 South Carolinians stand to lose their food stamp benefits next month when the state Department of Social Services attaches a work requirement to the program.

Starting April 1, "able-bodied" adults between the ages of 18 and 50 who aren't raising children must show that they have a job and work at least 80 hours a month to receive food stamp benefits.

Adults who don't comply with the rule will be dropped from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program after three months.

The state will make some exceptions to this rule. For example, pregnant women, caregivers and students are not required to demonstrate that they work to receive food stamp benefits.

Eligibility rules for the food stamp program are set by the federal government. The work requirement was written into the program in 1996, but states may request waivers to suspend the rule when "unemployment is high or when there are not enough jobs available," according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Please see **BENEFITS**, Page A7

### Inside



**SPORTS**  
Sapakoff: USC's Ray Tanner still a big fan of Clemson coach Monte Lee. C1

### LOCAL

High school graduation rates up, but students aren't ready for college or careers. A4

Report: More S.C. residents walking, biking to work. A5

## Speaker says S.C. roads need more than 'Band-Aid' fix

\$400M election-year deal praised, criticized

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
[gajackson@postandcourier.com](mailto:gajackson@postandcourier.com)

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley and a majority of Republicans claimed victory for a \$400 million road plan that has no gas tax increase and puts more power over the state Department of Transportation in the governor's hands.

"Republicans in the Senate did a

great thing," Haley said in a social media post Thursday her office staff told reporters to reference. "Their plan has more money to fix our roads, real reform to the DOT and the Infrastructure Bank so that money is spent the right way, and no tax increase."

The new plan, developed late Wednesday after hours of debate, still has its detractors in both parties and from road advocates who say it's



LUCAS

more of an election-year compromise that still falls short of needs. House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Hartsville, called the Senate plan a short-term fix.

"The General Assembly has been using general fund dollars to slap a Band-Aid on roads for years with very little to show for it," Lucas said in a

statement. "I urge the Senate to give this issue the attention that it requires and rally around a proposal with a long-term solution."

If \$400 million is allocated annually over a decade, it could improve about one-third of primary roads and nearly all interstate roads, the DOT says. Decay on secondary roads would cease and the amount of structurally deficient bridges would be cut in half, engineers contend.

Please see **ROADS**, Page A7



Chance of rain early.  
High 61. Low 40.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast. B10

Bridge ..... B9  
Business ..... B1  
Classifieds ..... D1  
Comics ..... B8-9  
Crosswords ..... B8, D7  
Dear Abby ..... B7  
Editorials ..... A14  
Local ..... A2  
Motors ..... B7  
Obituaries ..... B4  
Sports ..... C1  
Television ..... B6

**Charleston Deals**  
today

**Transform Universal Fitness**  
\$45 for 3 Personal Training Sessions + Diet & Weight-Loss Consultation. (Value at \$180). See A2







## SPORTS BROTHERS FACING OFF



## METRO Helping kids cook, eat healthy

# The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,  
MARCH 4, 2016  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

POLL: DRIVERS WILLING TO TAKE RISK OF HACKABLE VEHICLES PAGE 1B



## What will the state roads and bridges get for \$400M?

TIM SMITH  
TCSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

**COLUMBIA** - If a Senate roads plan favored by Republicans passes next week, it will remove a thorny issue that has bedeviled the Senate for years.

But what will \$400 million do for the state's roads and bridges?

According to the state Department of Transportation, which last month gave lawmakers a guide on what they could accomplish with certain amounts of money, \$400 million more per year improves the system but much work will be left on primary routes, in maintenance and interstate congestion.

"This is certainly not sufficient but it's a step in the right direction," Bill Ross executive director of the South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads, told *The Greenville News*.

State Transportation Secretary Christy Hall has said it would take \$1.2 billion more each year to bring the entire system up to good

condition.

But recognizing that it was unlikely lawmakers would grant that level of funding, Hall provided a breakdown of what outcomes they could expect over the next 10 years with varying levels of less.

With \$400 million, according to DOT, 95 percent of South Carolina's interstate miles could be improved to good condition, up from 66 percent in 2014, the last official rating.

But primary routes, which carry almost half of the state's traffic, would see less change.

DOT estimates 35 percent of primary road mileage would improve to good condition with the \$400 million plan, up from 20 percent in 2014.

The money would cut in half the number of structurally deficient bridges on interstates and primary routes. Currently about 9.5 percent of all bridges in the state are rated structurally deficient, according to DOT.

See **ROADS**, Page 11A

### WHAT \$400 MILLION MORE IN ROAD FUNDS WOULD BUY

- » \$65 million in interstate paving, to bring the condition from 66 percent to 95 percent good.
- » \$95 million in work on primary routes, which would bring 35 percent up to good condition.
- » \$99 million in bridge work to cut in half the number of structurally deficient bridges on interstates, primaries.
- » \$89 million in maintenance to improve the level of service from a grade of D to a C.
- » \$27 million in work to address "pinchpoints" of traffic congestion.
- » \$25 million in work to stop decay of secondary roads eligible for federal aid.

SOURCE: THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Attorney says landfill firm to fight coal ash law

RICK BRUNDRETT  
RBRUNDRETT@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The attorney for a company fighting to open a landfill in Pickens County that would accept coal ash told *The Greenville News* his company is planning to pursue all "available legal remedies" in wake of a new law that puts restrictions on burying the waste in South Carolina.

Gov. Nikki Haley has signed into law a bill that would stop MRR Pickens, LLC, a North Carolina based company, from disposing coal ash at a landfill near Liberty.

In an extensive interview with *The Greenville News*, Columbia attorney Robert Goings, who is representing Raleigh-based MRR Southern, said coal ash has been accepted in Class 2 landfills in South Carolina for decades.

"The only thing different between us and any other landfill that has Class 2 waste is that ours, in part, was going to be from out of state," Goings said.

Coal ash contains contaminants such as arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium, cadmium and chromium, and has been linked to increased risk of cancer, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Goings for the first time said MRR, which has a state permit for a lined Class 2 commercial landfill at its proposed site at State 93 and Cartee Road near Liberty, would be willing to accept both in- and out-of-state coal ash at the site.

He declined to identify the potential sources of the coal ash or projected amounts, citing "proprietary" reasons.

The new law requires coal ash generated by "an electrical utility, an electric cooperative, a governmental entity, a corporation, or an individual producing electricity for sale or distribution" be buried in a Class 3 commercial landfill, which must have liners and are subject to other regulations.

Goings contended that legislation, sponsored by Rep. Davey Hiott and pushed by Sen. Larry Martin, both Pickens County Republicans, "violates state and federal constitutional laws that prohibit legislative members from running to the General Assembly to pass special legislation to prohibit my client from doing what they've always strove to do, which is to follow the existing laws."

The state constitution bans lawmakers from passing special legislation when a general law can apply. Although Hiott's bill doesn't name MRR, Goings said it is intended to stop his client from opening a Class 2 landfill in Pickens County.

Goings declined to say specifically whether his client plans to file a lawsuit.

See **LANDFILL**, Page 8A

## Laughter, music in Mobley's memory

PAUL HYDE  
PHYDE@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Hundreds of friends, family and ad-

said.  
About 50 Greenville Symphony musicians were on hand to provide music, under the direction of conductor Edward





## LOCAL

'Idol' trims field down to 8. Did Bluffton's Lee Jean make it? 3A



## SPORTS

Jason Day, ranked No. 2 in the world, joins the field for RBC Heritage 1B

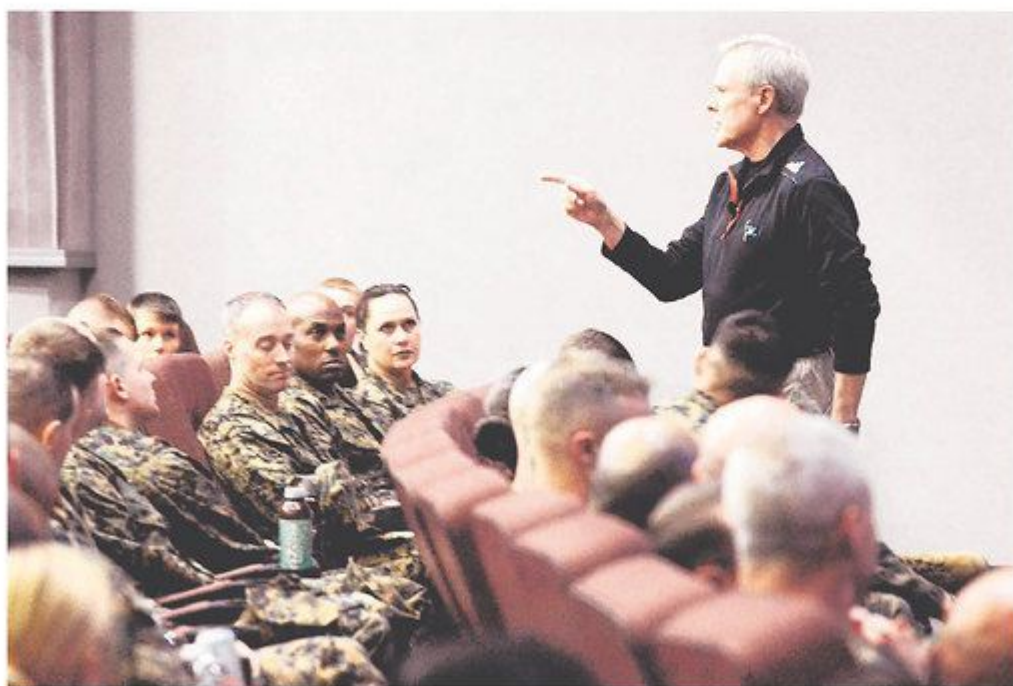


FRIDAY MARCH 4 2016

75¢

VOLUME 46, No. 64  
STAY CONNECTED ISLANDPACKET.COMFACEBOOK.COM/ISLANDPACKET  
TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND  
BLUFFTONMostly sunny  
61°/46° See 2A

# THE ISLAND PACKET



Navy Secretary Ray Mabus speaks to Marines at Lasseter Theater at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort on Thursday. Mabus spent the day visiting Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island and the air station.

## MARINE CORPS AIR STATION BEAUFORT

## Mabus: Diversity equals strength

Official says qualified women should be allowed to serve in combat roles

Beaufort event covered topics such as tattoos, paternity leave

'Stuff like gender and color and who you love shouldn't matter'

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU  
fastenau@beaufortgazette.com

**A** more diverse Marine Corps will be a stronger Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy's top official told Marines on Thursday.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has been at the center of the debate about women in combat. He pushed back against a Marines'

study last year that said women performed worse than men in combat roles and supported gender-integrated boot camp and more gender-neutral job titles and uniforms.

At a packed Lasseter Theater on Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, Mabus said those who meet the same set of standards should be able to do the same jobs.

"Stuff like gender and color and who you love shouldn't matter," said Mabus, the former Democratic governor of Mississippi and the longest to lead the Navy in his position since World War I.

Mabus, appointed by President Barack Obama in 2009, told a congressional panel this week he will step down within a year. He offered no date for his departure Thursday, saying only that he

was a political appointee and the news shouldn't be a surprise.

He addressed a number of issues, including questions about the Marines' evolving tattoo policy, Navy spending, and maternity and paternity leave for service members.

His comments on women in fighting roles proved the most lively. At the town-hall style talk, Mabus sparred with retired Col. Pat Garrett, who told Mabus a woman could have not fought alongside Garrett in Vietnam.

A 110-pound woman couldn't pull a 200-pound man from the battlefield, Garrett told Mabus. "She's going to get killed," said Garrett, who also questioned what women would do in war if they were without access to showers and bathrooms for extended time. "We're going to have to buy a lot more body bags

**“A DECADE FROM NOW, LOOKING BACK, PEOPLE WILL SAY ‘WHAT WAS THE BIG DEAL?’”**

U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus

because of this decision.”

The woman in Garrett's example would not have met fighting standards and not many can, Mabus said, but the ones who do shouldn't be kept from combat roles.

Mabus likened Garrett's argument to the debate over African-Americans enlisting in the Marines during the 1940s.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller doesn't agree with Mabus' position on women in combat, the secretary noted. Past commandants didn't agree with lifting the ban on openly gay service members or allowing

SEE MABUS, 7A



For video from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus' talk, go to [beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com).

## LOCAL

### COUNTRY MUSIC MAKES A SPLASH

The duo LOCASH and singer Canaan Smith will perform at the 61st Beaufort Water Festival this summer. 3A



## BUSINESS

### YOUR WEDDING TRIP, THEIR DIME

Before they say "I do," some couples are going online to ask: "Will you help pay for my honeymoon?" 7B



## LOCAL

### HISTORY GETS A NEW ROOF

Beaufort's Grand Army of the Republic Hall gets a new roof thanks to the efforts of the late Margie Kline Jenkins. 3A

## EDUCATION

### Are Beaufort County schools

meeting Tuesday, denigrating CARE for what they called attacks on the district's students,









# GOP goes after Trump

## News, 3A

# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 97, NO. 352

indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## Hodges residents voice odor concerns

By MATTHEW HENSLEY  
mhensley@indexjournal.com

Dozens gathered Thursday night to hear the latest on the odor issues in the Hodges area and to voice their opinions on the smell.

Residents said the smell keeps them from having people visit, irritates allergies and even keeps them from sleeping.

"Nobody is more frustrated than we are," Dave Berry, SPF North America CEO, told about 80 attendees. SPF develops and manufactures flavoring for pet products.

Representatives for SPF and the Town of Ware Shoals wastewater treatment operations, which appear to be the two sources of the odor, told residents what steps they are taking to correct the issue while speaking at the Highway 25 Industrial Area Community Forum organized by the Greenwood Partnership Alliance.

Residents responded with a mix of skepticism and hope.

"We expected the passion and frustration because they have dealt with this odor issue for a number of years now," said Jim Medford, Partnership Alliance chairman, adding that the

next time there is a forum on the odor issue, there should be results to share instead of a timeline.

Medford credited collaboration after several years of complaints with getting action on the odor issue.

"What we've been able to get all of the parties together in one room, working collaboratively together and not arguing this out in the press and pointing fingers at each other and just getting down and saying, 'OK, what do we have to do,'" Medford said.

See ODOR, page 4A



A resident motions while speaking at a forum about the odor issues in the Hodges area.

### SC ROADS

## Worry lingers with Senate Republicans' \$400M road plan for state

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The House speaker and some other lawmakers were cautious while many Senate Republicans and the governor celebrated a plan that could set aside an additional \$400 million to repair South Carolina roads without raising the gas tax.

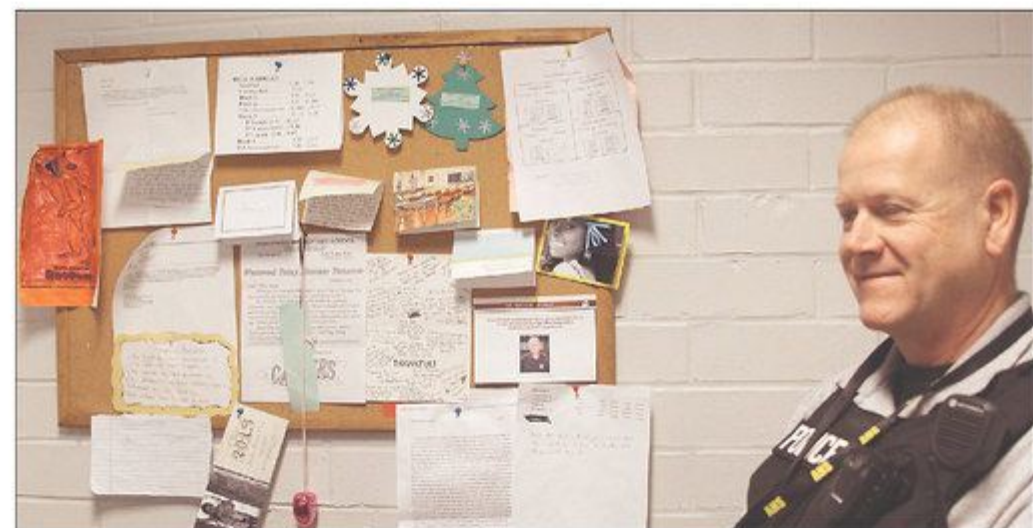
House Speaker Jay Lucas said the Senate needs to come up with a better plan, while Sen. Ray Cleary said all the proposal does is make sure the Department of Transportation has money for one year and even if it's available after that, it won't be enough to expand roads in a rapidly growing state, only maintain them.

"If we go into another recession, what are you going to cut?" said the Murrells Inlet Republican, who is in the last year of his 12-year Senate career. He has spent most of that time trying to get a stable source of money for roads, such as by raising the gas tax.

Lucas' statement Thursday pointed out the 323 days since the House passed its road plan, which raised the sales tax on fuel for a more stable funding source.

"The current Senate amendment simply kicks the can further down the road and frankly, into a pothole. The General Assembly has been using general fund dollars to slap a Band-Aid on roads for years

## Above and beyond



Mike Reepe, resource officer at Abbeville High School, pins handwritten thank-you notes to a cork board in his office, which he calls his wall of fame.

## Abbeville High School SRO gets commendation for work with students

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ  
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

After the tone of the bell, Abbeville High School students flood the halls, moving from class to class. Standing at the end of one hall, greeting students with a smile, is School Resource Officer Mike Reepe.

As they walk by, students call out to Reepe, stopping to talk about their day or offer up a fist-bump. On Thursday morning, one student stopped to repay 50 cents Reepe had loaned him



MIKE REEPE

All the face-to-face contact he makes with students helps build the trust he needs to do his job,

to buy a tea at lunch the previous day.

"When you're a SRO, you've got to be in the trenches there with them," Reepe said. "I work with the lunchroom staff selling tea, and I eat lunch in there with them. He came up and said 'Officer Reepe, I don't have 50 cents today, can you spot me a tea?'"

Reepe said. When he loans them money for tea, he said he almost always gets paid back.

For nearly five years, Reepe has been the school's resource officer and an instructor for the Alive at 25 program, which teaches students safe driving habits. The mandatory program teaches students about the dangers of distracted driving and techniques to avoid wrecks.

"The program is to keep young drivers from dying, honestly," he said. "That's the number one killer of teenagers."

See ABOVE, page 4A

## Proviso could strip John de la Howe of board of trustees

By ABRIEL GIL REATH

The school came under fire two years ago when a range a facility such as de la Howe should be







**SAVE THE DATE**  
**48 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**  
**THE CAROLINA ACADEMY**  
 HEADMASTER STEVIE PHILLIPS  
**T - TRUST • C - COMMITMENT • A - ATTITUDE**  
 351 N COUNTRY CLUB RD | LAKE CITY, SC 29560 | 843-374-5485

## FAMILY NIGHT & OPEN ENROLLMENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016 3-7PM

Early Enrollment for 2016-2017 School Year  
 Open Enrollment for New Families  
 3K-12th Grade & After School Program

# Morning News

FRIDAY MARCH 4, 2016

## TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny, clear and chilly later.  
 High 59, low 34.  
 DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

## Kellie Rasberry and the Kidd Kraddick team visit Florence



DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN  
 Morning News  
 dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Fans of "The Kidd Kraddick Morning Show" gathered Thursday evening at Red Bone Alley to welcome the nationally syndicated radio show's cast: Big Al Mack, J-Si, Jenna and Florence's own Kellie Rasberry.

The radio program, based in Dallas, is the most-listened-to con-

temporary morning show in the country, according to the show's website.

His stop in Florence was part of the "Rasberry Road Trip," a five-city tour of the South that ended in Rasberry's hometown.

"It's exciting to bring my friends here for the show," she said. "It's been fun letting them see some of my history."

Rasberry, who graduated from Francis Marion University, provides morn-

ing entertainment for people across the country. She loves what she does because she gets to be herself.

"And people accept it," she said.

The turnout has been good for the road trip thus far, Rasberry said, but she was nervous to see whether people came out in Florence.

Her concerns were soon dismissed after glancing around the parking lot of

Red Bone Alley.

In addition to the usual diners, dozens packed the restaurant, eager to meet the radio personality and her team.

Brooke Aland grabbed a picture with Rasberry soon after her RV pulled up.

"I listen to you every morning before school," she said, smiling.

It's always nice to be back in Florence, Rasberry said.

See KRADDICK, Page 3A

## \$400M going to roads

Lucas: Senate plan kicks can into a pothole

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The House speaker and some other lawmakers were cautious while many Senate Republicans and the governor celebrated a plan that could set aside an additional \$400 million to repair South Carolina roads without raising the gas tax.

House Speaker Jay Lucas said the Senate needs to come up with a better plan, while Sen. Ray Cleary said all proposal does is make sure the Department of Transportation has money for one year, and even if it's available, that it won't be enough to expand roads in a rapidly growing state, only maintain them.

"If we go into another recession, what are you going to cut?" said the Murrells Inlet Republican, who is in the last year of his 12-year Senate career. He has spent most of that time trying to get a stable source of money for roads, such as by raising the gas tax.

Lucas' statement Thursday pointed out the 323 days since the House passed its road plan, which raised the sales tax on fuel for a more stable funding source.

"The current Senate amendment simply kicks the can further down the road and frankly, into a pothole. The General Assembly has been using general-fund dollars to slap a Band-Aid on roads for years, with very little to show for it," the Hartsville Republican said.

## Demolition makes way for judicial center



WICAN/SCN/MORNING NEWS

Demolition has begun to make way for the new Florence County Judicial Center across from the current Florence City-County Complex.

## Groundbreaking for Florence County facility may be as early as April

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
 Morning News  
 jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — If you travel along North Irby Street in Florence you'll see demolition of several old storefronts and office spaces to make room for the new Florence County Judicial Center.

Demolition is expected to be completed this month, and preparations for construction of the approximately \$32 million project will be underway shortly after that.

Florence County Administrator K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. said the county should have a guaranteed maximum price in two to three weeks.

"It's moving along nicely. We're hoping to have a groundbreaking the first of April," he said. "We're still looking at an 18-month completion date."

The 120,500-square-foot building will sit across North Irby Street from the 43-year-old Florence City-County Complex. The building and

200 parking spaces will be constructed on the site, which the county has spent about \$3 million acquiring over the years.

With financing and operating costs factored in, the projects total cost will come to an estimated \$66.7 million over a 25-year payback period on an approved bond.



## Women learn self-defense skills at FMU

BY MELISSA ROLLINS  
 Morning News  
 mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Nearly 100

the class after having an experience while shopping that made her realize how vulnerable women can be just doing their daily activ-

coming to me and offering me free lessons."

Parker said that while she was encouraged by the offers, she was also thinking



--

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044