

From: Mayer, Doug  
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Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Friday, March 22, 2013

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**S.C. Front Pages - Friday, March 22, 2013**

## Madness begins

Who survived the first round of NCAA tournament? C1



## Get your fitness clothes for less

SAVVY SHOPPER, D1

# The Post and Courier

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FRIDAY, March 22, 2013

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Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00



Retail chain takes the spotlight on Day 3 of Fashion Week

People, A2

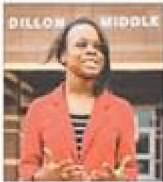
Is that farmland just a subdivision waiting to happen?

Brian Hicks column, B1



A look at Charleston's place in the women's suffrage movement

Media, D1



Coming Sunday

Ty'Sheena Bethune wrote a letter to Congress four years ago complaining about the dilapidated condition of her Dillon school. She got results. Today the building is new, built with \$30 million in federal aid. But the now 18-year-old believes the state needs to do more to help struggling rural schools.

In News



Cos Bar: 51% off of a 60-Minute Signature Cos Bar Facial See A2



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## Violent week in N. Chas.

City plagued by 5 shootings in 4 days, with 1 of them fatal

BY SCUTTLE KROPP  
skropp@postandcourier.com

North Charleston has seen a spike in gun violence this week, with five shootings in four days, one of them fatal.

While none of the gangplay seems to

be connected, the death of a 25-year-old man whose body was found resting under a truck Wednesday night brings to four the number of homicides in the city for the year.

Last year the city had 11 homicides in total.

Anti-violence activist James Johnson

said Thursday if something isn't done by residents, police and the greater community, the city could see a return to the worst periods of violence from the past.

"We've got to get to the people," said Johnson, a local church elder.

He also called for greater acceptance

of the word "snitching" when it comes to reporting who is doing the shooting.

"They have to believe their sons, their daughters, their neighbors," Johnson said of residents who know about the violence. "When they see it in their

Please see SHOOTINGS, Page A1

*"This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding."*

ARTICLE VI OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



FILE/ABC

## S.C. TO U.S.: BUTT OUT

Historically and recently, state legislators have proposed bills counter to federal laws



FILE/STAMP

Does South Carolina have the right to decide which federal laws it will comply with by passing a state law?

BY LAUREN SAUSSER  
lsausser@postandcourier.com

Should South Carolina be able to opt out of the federal law commonly called "Obamacare"? What about firearms regulations? The Second Amendment of the Constitution protects our right to bear arms, but what if the state chose to turn its back on gun policy set by the U.S. Congress?

### Inside

Health law tears with nation divided A4

At the heart of both of these issues is whether state laws trump federal ones. The answer depends on who you ask. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, a few Supreme Court decisions handed down over the past 200 years and the Civil War seem to say no, states can't nullify federal laws. But some Republican legislators in Columbia disagree. That's why a handful of nullification bills have been introduced in the General Assembly this year. They are the latest in a long list of laws drafted by South Carolina politicians over the years asserting that the state's sovereignty supersedes federal regulation.

Please see LAWS, Page A7

### Nullification in other states

Other examples of nullification in the U.S. include:

- The Colorado Marijuana Legalization Amendment was approved by voters there Nov. 6. It legalizes marijuana in the state, even though marijuana possession in the U.S. is a federal crime.
- The Alabama Health Care Amendment was approved by voters there Nov. 6. It decided that federal participation in any mandated health care system is prohibited. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2012.
- The Montana Firearms Freedom Act says the federal government has no authority to regulate guns, gun accessories and ammunition that are made and used within Montana. It was passed in 2009.

—State agencies

## Aviation chief to launch inquiry

2 reportedly tried to steer work to firm

BY WARRIN L. WISE  
wwise@postandcourier.com

A whodunnit playing out at Charleston International Airport almost wound up in the hands of law enforcement Thursday.

At issue is an effort to determine the identities of Charleston County Aviation Authority members who reportedly tried to steer a contract to a specific company as part of the \$100 million redevelopment of the passenger terminal.

Board member Malory Factor made a motion at the airport authority meeting for the airport's police chief to investigate the incident because he said board members should be "beyond reproach."

But board Chairman Andy Savage said bringing in the police was premature.

The reason: The Charleston defense lawyer is conducting his own investigation.

Savage said he will issue a report once his probe is completed. The board

Please see AIRPORT, Page A1

## Road rage video not first for recorder

BY NATALEE CAULA  
ncaula@postandcourier.com

A video of a road rage incident with a North Carolina deputy has gone viral online, but the 30-year-old man who shot it has a history of turning the camera on law enforcement.

Chad Walton, 32, most recently posted a videotape of a tense vehicular jockeying match Monday on Interstate 85 with an Onslow County sheriff's deputy.

The video, which has been viewed more than 600,000 times, is at least one of four that Walton has posted on YouTube chronicling his encounters challenging law enforcement officers.

Please see VIDEO, Page A3



**VIDEO**  
Go to [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to follow a link to the video.



Savage





E GREENVILLE

## GOOD TASTE

Seasoned chef has things cooking

METRO

## Mother charged in child's death

# The Greenville News

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FRIDAY,  
MARCH 22, 2013  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

METRO

Coroner rules shooting outside LEC a suicide, 1B

FINAL EDITION

## Martin seeks parole change

Decision in Sterling case spurs senator to propose ban for non-violent offenders

By Tim Smith

Staff writer  
tsmith@greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — The parole of former HomeGold chairman Jack Sterling could provide political support for a bill to ban parole for non-violent offenders.

Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, took to the floor Wednesday to criticize Sterling's parole as a "poor decision" and urged the Senate to consider a bill to ban parole for non-violent offenders the way parole is currently banned for those convicted of violent



Larry Martin

crimes. A spokesman for the parole board responded that the panel's decision was "reasoned" and done after a process that allowed those opposing Sterling's parole to talk to the board.

Martin said the decision is an example that leads the public to

believe that wealth and influence can get someone paroled.

"In fairness to the victims, I think it was a poor decision," he said, "and particularly in light of what went on with the other defendants and their families and the people who knew them and how they were treated."

Jon Ozsaint, Sterling's lawyer, told GreenvilleOnline.com that Sterling "accepted full responsibility for the crime that he committed. Jack is 75 and

this single offense was the only blemish on a life lived above reproach. He has been an exemplary inmate and over 100 people, most all from the Greenville community, wrote letters to the Parole Board supporting Jack's application for parole."

Sterling was granted parole Wednesday, less than a year after he began serving a five-year prison sentence on a securities

See PAROLE, Page 3A

Overcrowding causing problems, but little land for new canine rec areas



By Anna Lee

Staff writer  
alee@greenvilleonline.com

Soon after Canine Corner opened, the sign came down. Twenty-dog limit, the sign said, but hardly anyone followed it, Paul Ellis recalls.

On many weekends, Ellis, then director of Greenville Parks and Recreation, would go for a looping walk, stop by the little dog park framed by trees and a creek and count the dogs, just to see. There would be 40-something dogs, normally, and twice as many people.

The posted limit "didn't go over too good," Ellis says. "We just didn't realize how successful that dog park would be."

Now six years later, the same is true.

At less than half an acre, Canine Corner at Cleveland Park is still well-loved and remains the city's only dog park. Although two others have since been built elsewhere in the county, they haven't put a dent in the number of visitors who, on a clear, warm day, come to Canine Corner in droves.

Overcrowding has strained the dog park, drawing complaints from neighbors who live off Woodland Way. It's noisy. Cars are illegally parked, posing a safety issue. Clashes have

## Dog park

DOWNTOWN

PUTS CITY IN A CORNER



Conceived in 2005 by a Leadership Greenville class, Canine Corner turned a small, unused corner of Cleveland Park into a destination for dog lovers.

Below left, Taylor Deal and her dog Grigby play at the Canine Corner at Cleveland Park on Sunday, March 10, 2013. PHOTOS BY HEDI HELLMAN/STAFF

GreenvilleOnline.com

MORE ONLINE

Meet the regulars at Canine Corner, hear their dog stories and watch fido play in a video at GreenvilleOnline.com

## Trail takes a jump forward

1-mile expansion may be done by summer

By Mike Foley

Staff writer  
mfoley@greenvilleonline.com

TRAVELERS REST — There's no doubt that Greenville County residents and visitors love the Greenville Health System Swamp Rabbit Trail.

And soon, there will be more to love.

By summer, the current 17-mile trail from Travelers Rest south to Lake Conasaeta Nature Park will expand at least a mile northward, said Ty Houck, director of Greenways, Natural and Historic Resources at Greenville County Recreation District.

Houck made the announcement Thursday at the grand opening of the mountain bike skills course, a loop around the 15-acre Gateway Park in Travelers Rest. The park will serve as headquarters for the inaugural Swamp Rabbit Cycle Celebration on April 6.

Houck said right-of-way is already secured for the new section of trail. "Everyone has been really good about easements," he said.

With future expansions, the

See TRAIL, Page 4A

MORE ONLINE

For more information, visit <http://grisenline.com/visit/greenville-health-system-swamp-rabbit-cycle-celebration>.

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# Herald-Journal

FRIDAY

MARCH 22, 2013  
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## Mayor threatens to withhold bond approval

Stalemate continues between Spartanburg City Council, Commission of Public Works

By LYNN P. SHACKLEFORD  
lynn.shackelford@sjc.com

Spartanburg City Council and the Commission of Public Works remained at an impasse Thursday evening.

Mayor Junie White said Thursday that he won't approve any new bonds for the CPW after the commission threatened to reduce its \$1.4 million annual payment to the city.

The CPW is a separate entity

from the city, but it needs City Council to sign off on bonds to pay for projects, such as construction.

City residents own the utility. "If we lose the \$1.4 million, we would be crippled," White said. "We would not be able to make up that amount in taxes alone. It would hurt police protection, fire protection, garbage (collection). That's not to mention other quality-of-life amenities. Make



White

no mistake about it, that is a huge chunk of our (\$33 million) budget." Last May, the CPW, which along with the Sanitary Sewer District comprises Spartanburg Water, notified the city that its five-year agreement to make \$1.4 million in annual payments was ending on June 30.

In February, public works commissioners proposed a new arrangement, offering \$100,000 in free water each year and \$400,000 in payments during the first fiscal year, though that amount would diminish by \$100,000 (to zero) during the next three years. In addition, the commission offered \$500,000 in economic development grants for

◆ SEE STALEMATE PAGE A7

### Want to learn more about this issue?

The Herald-Journal and WSPA are holding a public forum on the dispute between Spartanburg City Council and the Commission of Public Works at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Herald-Journal offices, 189 W. Main St. Representatives from both sides will outline their positions on the fee, and members of the public will be able to ask questions.

## Pioneers getting closer

SMC only 2 games away from title after 75-68 win over East Georgia

By TODD SHANESY  
todd.shanesy@sjc.com

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — The biggest little team in America is two games away from a national championship.

Spartanburg Methodist College moved into the semifinals of the NJCAA basketball tournament on Thursday night with a 75-68 win against East Georgia State College in the Hutchinson Sports Arena.

The Pioneers (34-0) will play at 9 (EDT) tonight and are guaranteed to still be here on Saturday. They will finish no worse than fourth in the country, having locked at least a spot in the third-place game, and with one more win can advance to the first title game in school history.

"We're just little old Spartanburg Methodist College, with 800 students," SMC head coach Jeff Brookman said. "We don't have 12 full scholarships (only 1.2, in fact). We have an entire roster of South Carolina kids (four of the five starters from Spartanburg County), not a single out-of-state kid, not a single international kid. We're just here playing basketball and enjoying the ride."

And what a ride it's been this season.

SMC locked up an automatic berth for a second straight trip to nationals with a Region 10 regular season championship. The Pioneers followed that up with the tournament title as well and headed here to Hutchinson as the nation's No. 1-ranked team, the only unbeaten men's team in the country.

And, yet, there is a feeling here that SMC is the underdog. "Nobody gives us much respect," Brookman said. "I don't really think anybody thought we belonged in this tournament. ... It's just the way



OS MEMORY MAKER PHOTOGRAPHY  
Spartanburg Methodist College basketball players celebrate after Thursday's victory over East Georgia State in the NJCAA Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan. For more coverage, see page B1.

◆ SEE SMC PAGE A7

## Legislator's use of state airplanes questioned

GOP representative had columnist flown to SC for hearing

By SEANNA ADCOX  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A legislator sought an opinion Thursday whether a Republican House member properly used the state plane when he shuttled conservative commentator Walter Williams to and from a Washington-area airport for a hearing in Columbia.

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, asked the House Ethics Committee whether it's appropriate for a legislator to use a state plane for people testifying before a subcommittee. The opinion would carry no weight of law.

Her letter came a day after Rep. Bill Chumley of Woodruff brought Williams from a suburban Washington airport to push for a bill that initially sought to nullify the federal health care law. The state planes' four legs — to a Manassas, Va., airport and back, to pick up Williams and return him — would have cost a paying passenger nearly \$6,400, according to the state Aeronautics Commission's manifest and flight log.

Williams, a syndicated columnist and radio commentator who sometimes fills in for Rush Limbaugh, is well known for advocating state measures attempting to nullify the federal law.

Chumley again dismissed requests that he reimburse the state, calling Williams' testimony official state business.

"They're just upset that we had such a good day yesterday," he said. "That was a good use of the taxpayers' money."

Chumley, in his second term,



Chumley

◆ SEE CHUMLEY PAGE A7

### On the Web

Visit [GoUpstate.com](http://GoUpstate.com) to see photo galleries of area high school golf, track and tennis teams in action.

## Where's the relief at the gas pump?

US oil production booming and demand has dropped, but prices are still high



**A PAIN IN THE TANK:** Gas prices on rise despite oil supply increase, **8A**



VS.



Sports, 1B

State plane usage gets scrutinized

News, 2A



FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

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# INDEX-JOURNAL

Vol. 96, No. 325

## NEW JUDGE

### Smithdeal sworn in at family court

Longtime attorney replaces Billy Tunstall

By MATT BRUCE

mbruce@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County attorney Joe Smithdeal was sworn in as the 8th Judicial Circuit's newest Family Court judge Thursday afternoon during a ceremony at the Greenwood County Courthouse.



JOE SMITHDEAL

Several litigators, elected officials and judges were present to witness the installation as Smithdeal was christened to take the seat of former Family Court Judge Billy Tunstall Jr.

Tunstall presided over family disputes in the 8th Circuit, serving as Seat 3 judge from 1997 to July 2012, when he died because of complications from cancer.

"I'll always keep his memory in my mind when I'm sitting on the bench," Smithdeal said. "Obviously, I'm excited and humbled by the installation, and I plan to do my best every single day."

Retired South Carolina Supreme Court Justice Greg Moore presided over

See SMITHDEAL, page 3A

## SHERIFF ELECTION

### Watson wants to bring ACSO to 21st century

By MATT BRUCE

mbruce@indexjournal.com

When talking to Ray Watson, it becomes evident law enforcement is in his blood.

The son of a Greenwood County lawyer, Watson remembers playing sports with deputies at a young age while growing up in Greenwood. His cousin is a former police chief in Greenville, and another family member is a former agent with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.



RAY WATSON

Watson has served 21 years with the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office, where he is now a captain leading the criminal investigations division. Come next week, Watson will look to gear the first handle in his bid to become Abbeville County's next sheriff.

He is one of four candidates poised to battle in the Democratic primary Tuesday, when he will clash with ACSO Chief Deputy Marion Johnson, Abbeville

See WATSON, page 4A



DAVID THACKER / ROCK JOURNAL  
Steven Bixby heads to his table Thursday in a Lexington County courtroom. Thursday marked the continuation of a PCR hearing for Bixby that began in December.

## Back in court

Testimony in post-conviction relief hearing for convicted cop killer Bixby concludes

By CHRIS TRAVNOR

ctravnor@indexjournal.com

LEXINGTON — Convicted cop killer Steven Bixby was back in court Thursday.

The final day of testimony in Bixby's post-conviction relief hearing was Thursday in a small courtroom on the third floor of the Lexington County Courthouse. The proceedings

were the continuation of a PCR hearing that began in December at Abbeville County Courthouse.

See BIXBY, page 3A

## GCSO ANNUAL DEER SUPPER

# IT'S GAME NIGHT



PHOTO BY MATT WALSH / ROCK JOURNAL  
Cooper Harmslett eyes a plate of food during the Annual Deer Supper hosted Thursday by the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office at the Farmers Market.



Gentry Long helps his father, John, serve up a plate of food during the Annual Deer Supper.

### Feast feeds hundreds who gather for meat madness

By MATT BRUCE

mbruce@indexjournal.com

As most of the nation broke out brackets for the first day of March Madness, a crowd of Lakelands residents gathered in Greenwood for another form of game.

The Greenwood County Sheriff's Office cooked up a

batch of meat madness as it hosted its 23rd Annual Deer Supper at the Farmers Market.

Ventison, deer sausage, hash and deer loins lined the plates of a hefty crowd that filled the hangar-like depot across the street from the Greenwood Civic Center. Officials estimated about 800 turned out for this

See FEAST, page 3A

## Home and Garden Show chance to get tips about home improvement



By ST. CLAIRE DONAGHY

sdonaghy@indexjournal.com

### Coming Sunday

The Index-Journal presents its annual Home, Lawn & Garden section. This useful 12-page guide will offer a variety of tips for

number of topics during the show.

The show is hosted by the Index-Journal and presented

Schoch Agency, Peak Paints and Decor, Climate Control Systems, First Citizens with Help Around the Home, Bath





# Morning News

FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2013

TODAY'S  
WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and cool  
with 57 high, 40 low.  
DETAILS 2A

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## Florence Museum preps ancient timber for trip

Bald cypress tree has logged tens of thousands of years

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Likely the oldest artifact in the Florence Museum's collection was transported off-site Thursday to get ready for its debut when the new museum opens its doors early next year.

The 18-foot long, roughly

### ALSO

■ Florence Museum will host birthday party for famed late artist William H. Johnson. **Page 8A**

1,500-pound piece of an ancient bald cypress was given to the museum in 2006 by Stew Lane after it was discovered in a quarry near Lynchess River in 2002.

along with several other preserved tree specimens that are estimated to be up to 130,000 years old.

David Stahle, distinguished professor and director of the University of Arkansas tree-ring laboratory, said the specimens found are significant finds for the tree world. Stahle

See **TREE**, Page 10A



Michael Lane of Ancient Cypress LLC in Lake City helps move an ancient bald cypress tree Thursday from Florence Museum on to a trailer to be transported and treated for long-term preservation before it is installed in the new museum.

## A 'CIVIL' SERVICE



(From left) United Daughters of the Confederacy member Suzanne Calkutt, local chapter President Sylvia Pinkerman and state President Mary Armstrong, along with Sons of Confederate Veterans member Michael Spigner, stand graveside on Thursday during the funeral service for Beulah Mims, UDC member, at Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Turberville.

## Confederacy's last SC daughter passes

Beulah Marie Baggett Mims was 3 when soldier dad died

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

TURBVILLE — A true daughter of the Confederacy was laid to rest Thursday in Turberville at Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church.

Beulah Marie Baggett Mims was only 3 years old when her father, Confederate soldier John Jarrett Baggett, passed away. He served in Company One, 23rd Regiment, South Carolina Infantry, before becoming a preacher in the

Hemingway area after the war.

Mims was the last known actual daughter of the Confederacy in South Carolina. Currently, there are only 15 documented real daughters nationwide, according to the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC).

"It's history. It's sad that she's gone. To think her father fought for the Civil War is just amazing," state UDC president Mary Armstrong said.

Mims was inducted into the Ellison

See **DAUGHTER**, Page 5A



Relatives, family and friends gather next to the church for the graveside burial ceremony on Thursday during the funeral service at Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church in Turberville.

## A pretty penny is at stake

Projects line up for Florence County's capital project tax

BY ELLEN MEDER AND JOHN SWEENEY  
Morning News  
emeder@florencenews.com  
jsweeney@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Past, present and future projects funded by the capital project sales tax were the buzz of the Florence County Council meeting Thursday.

But not all projects in that realm are created equal. Some still have a ways to go before they are completed while others are just being dreamed up.

The tax, popularly known as the "penny tax," is a 1 percent sales tax on many consumer goods, excluding food.

When voters passed the a referendum in 2006, those funds went toward various road projects, but this time around, other projects could receive the cash.

Florence city and county councils have appointed six citizens to a commission to hear the public's top priorities and to study how best to spend future revenue. Made up of James Tanner of Johnsonville,

### INSIDE

■ Florence county schools want cut, too. **Page 10A**

See **TAX**, Page 10A

## Research: Pee Dee fat, but not so happy

Wisconsin study puts area counties at bottom of state health list; Beaufort at top

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Beaufort County is the healthiest place in South Carolina.

The unhealthiest? Well, that would be just about anywhere in the Pee Dee.

The rankings are from recently released University of Wisconsin

consin rankings and are based on obesity levels, percentage of smokers and health measures.

In Beaufort County, UW researchers found a relatively active adult population. Only 16 percent of residents in the coastal county are smokers, researchers said, compared with 21 percent across the state overall. Beaufort has been ranked as South Carolina's healthiest county since at least 2010, according to the researchers.

Marion County, on the other hand, was listed as the state's unhealthiest county, with an adult obesity rate of 38 percent.

Bad health does not stop at the Marion County line. The Pee Dee region took up seven spots in the bottom third of the rankings. Florence County ranked as the healthiest spot among the Pee Dee counties with an overall state ranking of 31, but the numbers in the region's largest county are not particularly

heartening. The adult obesity rate in Florence County was 35 percent. Marlboro County had the highest adult obesity rate in the state at 43 percent. It ranked 44th (out of 46 counties), finishing ahead of Marion because it had better numbers in some other areas.

According to the study, South Carolina's overall adult obesity rate is 31 percent.

See **HEALTH**, Page 10A

### Pee Dee-ittful!

Pee Dee counties ranked at the bottom in health, a University of Wisconsin study says. Rankings are out of 46.

Rank/County	Adult obesity	Poor/fair health
31. Florence	35%	19%
32. Chesterfield	35%	20%
38. Darlington	36%	21%
40. Williamsburg	42%	23%
42. Dillon	39%	25%
44. Marlboro	43%	29%
46. Marion	38%	29%



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INDEX

NO. 95 NEWS

THE BEST



## He's ready

Expect USC receiver Shamier Jeffery to make an impact.

SPORTS, C1

## Taylor Swift

Is she still America's music princess? Weekend



# RACING TO SAVE A TAX BREAK



Drivers take the green flag in front of packed grandstands as a NASCAR race starts in 2006 at Darlington.

**Darlington Raceway may lose tax exemption as it widens seats**

By ADAM BEAM  
abeam@thestate.com

If it's not careful, Darlington Raceway could exempt itself from its own tax exemption. The 63-year-old racetrack has plans to widen its seats, currently 18 inches wide, in order to make the race more comfort-

able for its fans, according to track president Chris Browning. But if it does that, Darlington's capacity would fall below 60,000 seats - the threshold required to qualify for an exemption to the state admissions tax.

A Senate subcommittee Thursday ad-

SEE RACE PAGE A8

**INSIDE: GOP LAWMAKER SAYS HE WON'T REPAY PLANE COSTS. PAGE B1**

## The State

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013 | THESTATE.COM



A crowd gathers along Terrace Way in Columbia to watch Ann Brodie's Carolina Ballet dancers put on a performance of Stravinsky's 'The Rite of Spring.'

## A COOL RITE OF SPRING

**Welcoming the season to town in a unique way**

By DAWN HENSHAW | dhenshaw@thestate.com

John Canby finally ventured out his front door to announce to a group settled on blankets on his lawn: "The weatherman just said it's 54."

No matter.

They were, as one of the guests suggest-

ed, present for the very first Rite of Spring block party on Columbia's Terrace Way, organized by the irrepresable Temple Ligon - an event the host pledged to repeat.

His house and newly planted gardens were open to about 50 visitors celebrating Columbia's perfect season with bellinis in the sunroom and ballet on the



**ONLINE:** More photos; scan this barcode with any smartphone to watch a video at [thestate.com](http://thestate.com).

SEE SPRING PAGE A8

### PUBLIC FORUM

RESTRICT FOOD STAMPS?

## Don't tell us what to buy

Overwhelming majority favors free choice, no new limits

By JOEL HOLLEMAN  
jholleman@thestate.com

At a forum Thursday set up to hear what kinds of restrictions the public might suggest for food stamps, the resounding message was: None.

Gov. Nikki Haley believes limiting the purchase of some fatty and high-sugar items with food stamps could improve the health of food stamp recipients and reduce health care costs in the state.

At the forum Thursday night at the Richland County office building, only two people suggested there should be any new limitations. About two dozen pleaded for state leaders not to further restrict what they can buy. Many suggested expanding the food stamp eligibility list to include essential products such as toilet paper.

"When you go grocery shopping, the prices are high, and some of the healthy

SEE FORUM PAGE A8

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## Panel targets jail issues after beating

By JOHN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

Richland County officials on a special jail review committee appeared poised Thursday to concentrate on two key areas - raising detention officer pay to attract a higher caliber guard and focusing on the management of the large number of inmates with mental health issues.

The committee, led by Richland County Council

SEE JAIL PAGE A8



Richland councilmen Torrey Rush, left, Norman Jackson and Greg Pearce received a tour of the Richland jail Thursday from director Ronaldo Myers, right.

**ONLINE:** See a photo gallery from the jail, with this story at [thestate.com](http://thestate.com).







Odd



Gifts to America:  
pieces of the past

Inside this edition



Blue to blue

Edisto's Brice Johnson  
with Tar Heels in NCAA  
tourney

Sports, B1

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## 'A team effort'



Tobul Accumulator President Jim Tobul, right, presents Gov. Nikki Haley with a gift Thursday. The governor was in Bamberg for the grand opening of the company's new facility. See video and more photos from Haley's visit at TheTandD.com/topnews

## Haley celebrates Tobul expansion, asks industries to look to rural areas

By MINNIE MILLER  
T&D Correspondent

ORANGEBURG — Gov. Nikki Haley wants people to see that Bamberg County is a great place to live, grow and do business.

At Thursday's grand opening ceremonies for Tobul Accumulator's new facility and expansion, Haley thanked Jim Tobul, company president, for having faith in the small, rural community.

"An expansion is the ultimate compliment," Haley said. "They could have gone somewhere else."

Tobul Accumulator, which occupies an industrial site on Accumulator Street and an office building on Main Street, will be expanding into a newly constructed industrial building at the CrossRhodes Industrial Park on U.S. 301. The park is owned by the Southern Carolina Alliance. The company plans to expand and update the building to accommodate its growing sales and manufacturing operations.

Tobul manufactures hydraulic accu-

mulators, which are used to store energy. Accumulators act as emergency power sources in a wide range of products from circuit breakers to wind turbines to blow-out preventers in oil wells and weapons systems.

Jim Tobul noted that choosing Bamberg as a location back in 1987 was due to several factors, including the availability of an airport and the fact that he was impressed with Bamberg County's professional proposal.

"And now, 26 years later, we are opening up this expansion," Tobul said. "It is a proud moment."

He said Gov. Haley has made it known that his state and her hometown are open for business. He added that Haley stands up for business and that she maintains a soft heart for her hometown and the people here.

Danny Black, president and CEO of Southern Carolina Alliance, said Tobul's expansion is just what a community like Bamberg needs to prosper and grow.

"What a great day in Bamberg County!" Black said.

Haley said bringing in industry and watching it grow to the point of expansion is a team effort. She encouraged industries seeking a location to give small, rural communities a look. If you give it time and a good look, you will see what a small town can offer, she said.

The governor presented Tobul with an American flag to fly at the industry's new location.

"You and your family have been so good to this community," Haley told him.

Tobul gave Haley a tour of the new facility, which includes two levels containing offices, conference rooms, a training room, work areas with open partitions, a cafeteria and a break room. The majority of the area in the facility will be dedicated to the manufacturing process. Tobul expects to have the new facility up and running in a matter of weeks.

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## SCSU trustees, lawmakers seek more on probe

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN  
T&D Staff Writer

Lawmakers and trustees say they're pleased that South Carolina State University's interim president is addressing the issues raised during an internal investigation, but they still want to know more about what was discovered.

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, said she's still not clear why the university's board hasn't requested a copy of the report by attorney Reginald Lloyd.

"That's why, we can see what the president has responded to and see what, if any, other areas he indicated need to be addressed," Cobb-Hunter said.

"I am assuming this report was paid for with tax dollars, so we have a right to know what's in it," she said.

S.C. State Interim President Dr. Cynthia Warrick released a six-page letter to trustees on Monday responding to issues raised during Lloyd's internal investigation.

Lloyd, the former head of the State Law Enforcement Division, was hired by S.C. State in December 2011 to investigate alleged criminal and unethical activities. The probe ended in March 2012 with S.C. State's board of trustees never seeking a final report.

Lloyd later told The T&D that he'd found 40 to 50 areas of concern that he discussed with the board. He said Thursday that the university's auditor had a checklist of the issues.

S.C. State Board of Trustees Vice Chair Robert Waldrep said there are a lot of different areas to look at and he wants specific information about each of them.

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said there are a lot of different areas to look at and he wants specific information about each of them.

"For us to make intelligent decisions, we need more particulars," he said. "I feel like I need another set of eyes about some of the activities."

He said he wants help from a trustworthy investigator so he can be sure the information he's getting is right.

For example, he has a lot of questions about University Village. Warrick's letter described, for instance, how the university is dealing with allegations of "off the books" rentals and other problems at the dorm.

"I would like to sit down with our auditor and look to see what steps are being taken. I want to know what those particular steps are," he said.

Waldrep also said he also wants to know why eight individuals were fired in early 2012 in the midst of Lloyd's investigation. The board was never told why they were terminated, and Waldrep said he wants to be sure they weren't just scapegoats.

"That's an issue that needs to be looked at in order to be fair to these people," he said.

See SCSU, A3

## Cobb-Hunter seeks opinion on recent state plane usage

By SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A legislator sought an opinion Thursday whether a Republican House member properly used the state plane when he shuttled conservative commentator Walter Williams to and from a Washington-area airport for a hearing in Columbia.

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, asked the House Ethics Committee whether it's appropriate for a legislator to use a state plane for people testifying before a subcommittee. The opinion would carry no weight of law.

Her letter came a day after Rep. Bill Cranley of Woodruff brought Williams from a suburban Washington airport to push for a bill that initially sought to nullify the federal health care law. The state planes' four legs — in a Manassas, Va., airport and back to



Cobb-Hunter

unmistakable and radio com-menda-tor who some-times fills in for Rush Lim-baugh, is well

known for advocating state measures attempting to nullify the federal law.

Cranley again dismissed requests that he reimburse the state, calling Williams' testimony official state business.

"They're just upset that we had such a good day yesterday," he said. "That was a good use of the taxpayers' money."

Cranley, in his second term, insists ethics committee staff signed off on the flight before he arranged it.

The House and Senate members

## Police: Knife-wielding man broke into home

By RICHARD WALKER  
T&D Staff Writer

Police are looking for the man they believe attacked a sleeping woman with a knife after breaking into her home.

Williams has been identified as James Simmons of 1252 Wildwood Drive after a break-in at an Alther Street residence where a 60-year-old woman slept Friday night. The woman managed to fight off her attacker twice and run for help.

Simmons, who turns 44 on Saturday, will be charged with first-degree burglary, first-degree assault and possession



Simmons

She said at around 9:40 p.m., a male dressed in all black jumped on her while she was in bed. He apparently had been in the house for a while because she recognized the knife he was brandishing as her own.

He put the knife to her neck while demanding to know where her son was

begin throwing things around the room, still demanding to know where the son was.

The assailant then tied throwing a blanket over the woman, saying "I'm going to cover your head so you won't recognize me," according to the report. However, the woman shot back she already knew who he was.

She fought him off a second time and fled the residence.

Police noted the woman had several marks on her neck that appeared to be consistent with what she said happened. Investigators recovered the knife, which



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