

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, June 22, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, June 22, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Roof, Slager trials set to overlap

Judge in ex-officer's case won't change date despite conflict

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

A judge on Tuesday refused to move the trial of former policeman Michael Slager even as federal authorities plan to prosecute Dylan Roof a week later.

Circuit Judge Clifton Newman's stance on the scheduling conflict keeps the two



Poll

Should the judge have moved Michael Slager's trial date? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

nationally prominent cases on track to unfold simultaneously across the street from each other. If any unforeseen wrin-

kle arises, though, that could change, he said during a morning hearing in downtown Charleston.

"If some other trial is ongoing at the time, then another trial will be ongoing," the judge said. "I'm not required to change anything based on ... developments in other cases in other places. The

Please see TRIALS, Page A7



Former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager was in court Tuesday for a hearing before Judge Clifton Newman. BRAD NEUFELD/STAFF

The Spirit lives on

Lowcountry's tall ship recertified, back in action after long wait



PHOTOGRAPHY BY GRACE BEAUM/STAFF

Crews on the Spirit of South Carolina sail into the Maritime Center on Tuesday with the Coast Guard on board to recertify the ship for tours. The tall ship is scheduled to make a voyage to New England and will return to Charleston in the fall after hurricane season.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

The Spirit of South Carolina sets sail Thursday, fully certified and ready to carry paying passengers for the first time in years.

The Lowcountry's own tall ship is headed to New England to ride out the hurricane season and drum up off-season business while it's there. It's now scheduled to sail home and start up here in October.

The Coast Guard recertified the Spirit on Tuesday.

"The ship was inspected and found in excellent shape," said Coast Guard marine inspector John Doughten. "The crew performed well and displayed a high level of competency during all drills."

It's been a long haul to get this far, two years since local businessmen Tommy Baker and Michael Bennett paid \$440,000, outbidding out-of-town interests at a foreclosure auction to keep it here. They said then their hope was to continue its educational programs, buoying that with other revenue-producing uses.

"We're finally making progress," said longtime volunteer Reg Brown. In New England, the crew will introduce the ship to officials at the Williams-Mystic maritime studies program in Mystic Seaport, Conn., which doesn't have its own ship and is looking for a tall ship to use on field trips and overnight classes for

Please see SPIRIT, Page A6



Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Dave Harris and his crew of inspectors step off the Spirit of South Carolina at the Maritime Center on Tuesday after they recertified the ship to conduct tours.

Bishop reassigns Emanuel pastor

Rev. Clark moved to Georgetown church

BY JENNIFER BERRY HAWES
jbhawes@postandcourier.com

The first permanent pastor of Emanuel AME Church, where nine worshippers were gunned down at Bible study a year ago, has been moved to a church in Georgetown after just five months at the grieving house of worship.

Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, whose district spans South Carolina, assigned the Rev. Betty Deas Clark to Emanuel AME on Jan. 23. She was the first female pastor to lead the historic church on Calhoun Street.

Multiple sources confirmed to The Post and Courier on Tuesday that the bishop reassigned Clark to Bethel



Clark

Please see PASTOR, Page A7

Graham co-sponsors gun limits

Bill targets terrorists, focuses on watch lists

BY EMMA DUMAIN
edumain@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham — no stranger to spearheading bipartisan legislative compromises — has signed on as a co-sponsor of Congress' latest effort to keep firearms out of the hands of terrorists.

The South Carolina Republican hopes that, unlike other cross-aisle collaborations of the past, this is a plan that could land on the president's desk. "If we can't pass this, it truly is a broken system up here," Graham said at



Graham

Please see GRAHAM, Page A6

Dorchester District 2 settles transgender restroom case

Deal gives student access and changes anti-bias policies

BY BRENDA RINDGE
and DEANNA PAN
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dpand@postandcourier.com

Dorchester District 2 agreed to let a transgender elementary student use the restroom she identifies with,

according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The Department's Office for Civil Rights said the district violated Title IX, which protects students from sex-based discrimination, because the student was not given access to the girls' bathroom as a result of her transgender status.

However, OCR determined that the district's policies and procedures complied with Title IX, according to a statement released Monday.

OCR is responsible for enforcing federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination by educational institutions on the basis of disability, race,

color, national origin, sex, and age, as well as the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001.

"I commend (the district) for committing to protect the civil rights of all students and ensuring that all students have equal access to education programs and activities," said Catherine E. Lhamon, assistant secretary

Please see TRANSGENDER, Page A3

Inside

BUSINESS

FAA announces new rules, clears small, commercial drones for takeoff. B1

SPORTS

For C of C's Olympic sailors, no time to worry about Zika or contaminated waters. C1



FOOD

Fruitful endeavors: Easy and refreshing desserts for summer. D1

LOCAL

Brian Hicks: Berkeley school board needs to say "Amen," close the public prayer. A2



Clear:
High 94, Low 72,
Complete 5-day
forecast. B1D

Bridge	B9	Crossroads	B1E4	Movies	B7
Business	B1	Food	D1	Obituaries	B4
Classifieds	E1	Editorials	A10	Sports	C1
Comics	B8-9	Local	A2	Television	B6

Charleston Deals today

Live at the Grove
\$45 for two tickets to
Travis Tritt on June 23
(valued at \$50-\$70). See A2



USC BASKETBALL
Gamecocks have one 7-footer and more could be coming, 1B

PREP SOCCER
Midlands teams finish among nation's best in final polls, 5B



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TODAY: MOSTLY SUNNY HI 97° LO 73°
YESTERDAY: HI 96° LO 70° PRECIP. (as of 5 pm) 0.00"
FORECAST, 10C

The State

RICHLAND'S PENNY TAX BATTLE

Three companies won't discuss fraud allegations

DOR, Richland County to clash in court over penny sales tax for first time next week

In escalating legal battle over Richland County's penny sales tax, court is place to resolve issues, government watchdog says

BY JOHN MONK
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Officials with the three private companies that allegedly acted unlawfully in handling millions of dollars of Richland County's penny sales tax said Tuesday they could not comment on the case.

The accusations were made by the S.C. Department of Revenue in legal filings this week against Richland County over alleged mismanagement and "civil fraud" in the handling of millions of dollars raised since 2013 by the county's penny sales tax, due to last for 22 years and raise \$1 billion.

The \$1 billion is supposed to be spent only on transportation projects, but DOR asserts some of the millions raised to date have been spent unlawfully

and gone to non-transportation projects.

Officials with the county's three private firms — who together make up what is called the "project development team" — said that because of the litigation, the only thing they can say at present is that the transportation projects are going well.

Only the county, not the firms, had been accused of wrongdoing before this week.

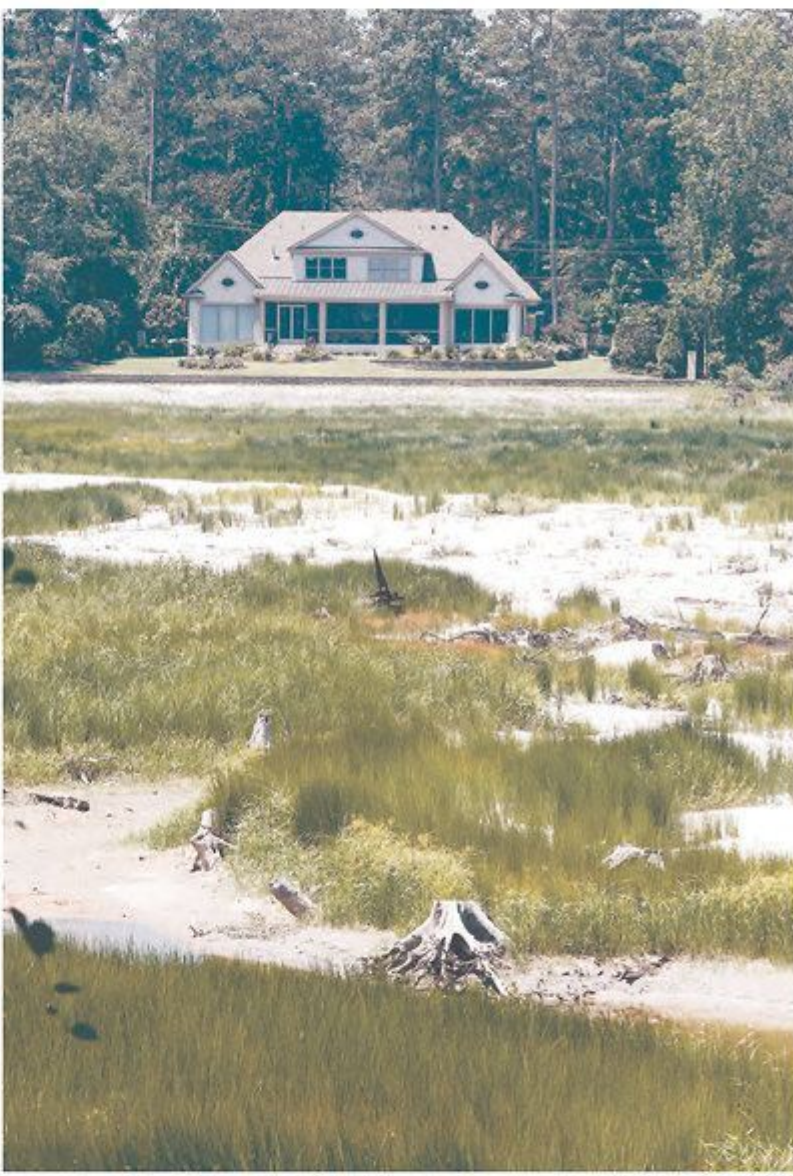
One of DOR's assertions is that the county should not have hired those companies at all, but formed a Transportation Authority as set out by state law.

Such an authority would be a publicly appointed body and has to comply with state regulations concerning procurement

SEE PENNY TAX, 6A

UPPER ROCKYFORD LAKE DAM

Voters opt to tax selves for repairs



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRACY GLANTZ tgantz@thestate.com

What was once Rockyford Lake is now a meandering creek winding its way through a dry lake bed. Residents in the neighborhood voted whether to pay for repairs through increased property taxes or fees.

The few, the proud, the fit: Women strive for combat jobs

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Six months after the Pentagon ordered all combat jobs open to women, seven female Marines are either serving in those posts or waiting to serve, and 167 are performing noncombat duties in front-line units, according to new data obtained by The Associated Press.

The numbers underscore the difficulty of integrating women into the demanding jobs, and reflect the small number of women who want to be combat Marines and can pass the new tough physical standards required to qualify. So far this year,

➔ MORE INSIDE

Do you have what it takes to be a Marine? Page 7A

those standards have weeded out most female hopefuls and have also disqualified some men.

Six out of seven female recruits — and 40 out of about 1,500 male recruits — failed to pass the new regimen of pull-ups, ammunition-can lifts, a 3-mile run and combat maneuvers required to move on in training for combat jobs, according to the data.

All female Marine recruits are trained at Parris Island in Beaufort. Failing the tests, taken

SEE MARINES, 7A

Neighborhood will borrow



SPORTS COUNTDOWN TO FOOTBALL



LIFESTYLE
Taste a
portobello
burger

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 22, 2016
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USA TODAY

DEEP-POCKET DONORS BALK AT FUNDING TRUMP CAMPAIGN PAGE 1B

Lewis, Loftis trade jabs in sheriff's runoff

Lewis claims file
fictitious; Loftis
sees 'desperation'

ANNA LEE
ZLEE@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Will Lewis fired back at Sheriff Steve Loftis Tuesday, trading jabs with his former boss with just a week to go in the race for Greenville County sheriff.

Lewis, who is challenging Loftis in the June 28 runoff, went on the attack after Loftis released the former deputy's personnel file that included allegations of misconduct and conduct unbecoming a deputy.

"He did a little sneak attack and tried to blindside me with fictitious documents," Lewis said at a news conference in front of the Hilton Hotel.

Lewis accused the sheriff of planting false records in his personnel file and said Loftis can't be trusted to run the county.

He also accused Loftis of tossing back drinks at the Outman Cigar Bar when he should've been working and requiring Sheriff's Office command staff to contribute \$250 to his re-election campaign.

Loftis disputed those accusations and said Lewis needs to "grow up."

In a news conference of his own two hours later, Loftis called Lewis's latest attack "an act of desperation."

Loftis had previously responded to a mailer — paid for by his opposition — with allegations of tax evasion, daytime drinking and an unlawful gun sale.

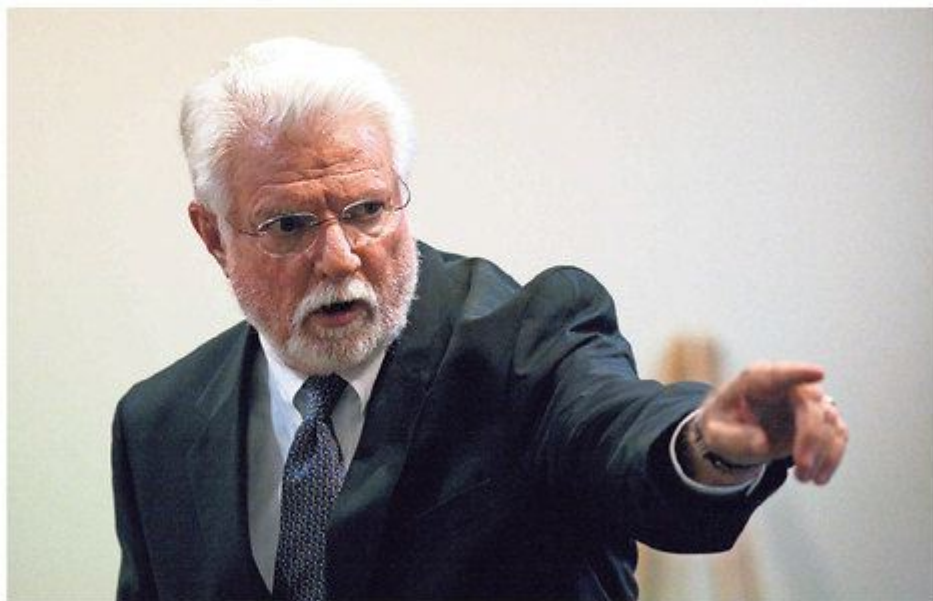
"This latest case of nonsense is nothing but two liars giving false information and trying to somehow find a way to make up the difference in this campaign," said Loftis' campaign manager Tim Brett.

Brett was referring to a former Outman manager who described seeing Loftis drunk on several occasions and falling down by his county-issued car.

Loftis said he stops by Outman for a cigar after work but only drinks black coffee and said that claims of deputies being forced to donate to his campaign are "completely untrue."

At least eight law enforcement officers contributed to the \$35,175 in

See RUNOFF, Page 4A



PHOTOS BY LELAND A. GUTZ

Defense Attorney John Mauldin gestures during the Suzanna Brown Simpson trial in Pickens.

Simpson's mother recalls 'bizarre' talks

Phone conversations detailed in trial

ROMANDO DIXSON
RDIXSON@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

PICKENS - Suzanna Brown Simpson loved to hear her parents tell the story of how much they wanted to adopt her as an infant. The anecdote tended to reassure her about things, her mother, Susan Brown, testified Tuesday.

The mother and daughter talked five times on the phone May 13, 2013. The next day Simpson's 7-year-old girl and 5-year-old son were found dead in their beds with multiple gunshot wounds to the head, and her husband suffered life-threatening injuries from gunshot wounds.

Authorities charged Simpson, who was 35 at the time, with two counts of murder in the deaths of her children and attempted murder in the shooting of her husband, Michael Simpson, who has watched the trial in a wheelchair.

Suzanna Simpson pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. And the discus-

See TRIAL, Page 4A



Suzanna Brown Simpson sits during a break in her trial in Pickens.

Pickens County earmarks \$23 million for new jail

RON BARNETT
RBARNETT@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Pickens County Council earmarked \$23 million from county reserves toward construction of a new 322-bed jail but stopped short of committing to building

Neil Smith said.

The action came during amendments made at third and final approval of the 2016-17 budget Monday night.

Council Chairman Jennifer Willis reiterated that the amendment doesn't commit the council to spending \$23 mil-

lions, whether we bond part of it," she said.

The proposed detention center would be three times as big as the current one which was designed to hold up to 91 inmates and has been incarcerating more than twice that many.

termine things like is it actually the way that you want it," he said. "And then you can do anything from value engineering to cut money out of it or whatever."

"So there's a lot of room to go before we start getting into any big money." In an attempt to shorten the time in-

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Morning News

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2016

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WEATHER**
A stray thunderstorm
this afternoon.
High 98, low 74.
DETAILS 2A

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Fellowship conference begins at civic center

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Christian Covenant Fellowship of Ministries Conference begins today at the Florence Civic Center.

The four-day conference will feature several seminars covering topics such as hermeneutics, entrepreneurship, psychological wholeness, ministry and millennials and cultivating sponsorship for community/faith-based initiatives.

Evening plenary sessions will feature a different psalmist and speaker each night. The conference will wrap up Saturday morning.

Business leader, author and speaker John Maxwell will headline this year's event.

Maxwell has trained millions of leaders and is the recipient of the Mother Teresa Prize for Global Peace and Leadership from the Luminary Leadership Network. He is the founder of The John

See **CONFERENCE**, Page 4A

COASTAL CAROLINA TRAILS



Coastal Carolina pitcher Bobby Holmes (31) beats TCU's Ryan Merrill (5) to first base Tuesday for the out during the sixth inning of an NCAA College World Series baseball game in Omaha, Neb.

At press time Tuesday night, Coastal Carolina trailed Texas Christian University 6-1 in the top of the ninth inning at the College World Series. Barring a comeback, the Chanticleers were looking at playing an elimination game Thursday night against Texas Tech, which eliminated top seed Florida earlier in the day Tuesday. For a recap of the game, visit www.scnw.com.

Moore wins District 2 primary runoff



Clinches Florence City Council spot

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Pat Gibson-Hye Moore defeated Florence County Democratic Chairwoman LaShonda NeSmith in the Florence District 2 primary runoff Tuesday for the seat for the district represented for more than 25 years by the late Ed Robinson.

Moore, a member of the Florence School District One board, got 54.6 percent of the votes, while NeSmith held 45.4 percent — that's 346 votes for Moore and 288 for NeSmith.

There will be a general election for this seat on July 26, but Moore will face no opposition on that ballot. Moore will take office after the July election — barring no hitches when election results are made official and no trouble with write-in ballots.

Moore celebrated with family and friends after the results came in Tuesday night. She said she's worked for more than 20 years to put Florence in a better place and now she's happy to have a bigger voice to do just that.

"I give God the glory, all the glory! Hallelujah! Thank you, Jesus,"

Pat Gibson-Hye Moore (right) embraces her cousin Nikki Player after winning the race for Florence City Council District 2.

JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS

See **MOORE**, Page 3A

LifeChangers bring construction ministry to Florence

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

and fixed up free. "It shows God's love for everybody and hopefully they'll get to know God by what we're doing," she said.

ferent churches," she said. "It's like a camp." On Sunday night a large group showed up at Calvary Baptist Church and will sleep on cots



Brian Casey, in red, guides (left to right) Sharif Crosland, Mary Tucker and

FLORENCE — Raelyn Ott is



US FALLS TO ARGENTINA IN COPA AMERICA

SPORTS, B1



SMALL, COMMERCIAL DRONES WIN FEDERAL OK

BUSINESS, C4

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, June 22, 2016



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TODAY THU FRI

93°/73° 95°/75° 91°/72°

Complete forecast, B6

UPSTATE



HUB-BUB plans constant activity

A group of Spartanburg artists and creatives is preparing to launch a variety of new programming with the intent of having constant activity in the heart of downtown. HUB-BUB has plans to bring 100-150 free, public events each year for the next three years to Morgan Square. **C1**

IN BRIEF

Ex-officer's trial to start as scheduled

CHARLESTON — A South Carolina judge said Tuesday that the murder trial of a former North Charleston police officer will be held as scheduled, just a week before a federal trial begins across the street for the man accused of killing nine people in a Charleston church.

"The victims are entitled to have this matter addressed, tried and resolved," Judge Clifton Newman said as the family of Walter Scott attended the hearing.

Newman is handling the murder trial of Michael Slager, who fatally shot Scott during a traffic stop in April 2015.

The 34-year-old former officer was captured on cellphone video firing eight times as Scott tried to run away, a case that inflamed a national debate about how white officers treat blacks. Scott's parents and family members attended Tuesday's hearing.

Meanwhile, a Nov. 7 date has been set for the federal hate crimes trial of Dylann Roof, 22, a white man accused of trying to start a race war by killing nine black parishioners at Emanuel

CAMPAIGN 2016

Clinton: Trump is 'reckless'

By Ken Thomas
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Hillary Clinton said Tuesday that Donald Trump would send the U.S. economy back into recession, warning his "reckless" approach would hurt workers still trying to recover from the 2008 economic turbulence.

Clinton's address in Ohio, one of the most important battleground states, sought to define Trump as little more than a con man, whose ignorance and ego would tank the global economy, bankrupt

Americans and risk the country's future.

"Every day we see how reckless and careless Trump is. He's proud of it," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "Well, that's his choice. Except when he's asking to be our president. Then it's our choice."

The speech was similar to one earlier this month in San Diego in which Clinton tried to undercut the Republican candidate's foreign policy credentials. This time, at an

SEE CAMPAIGN, A5



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks about the economy Tuesday at Fort Hayes Vocational School in Columbus, Ohio. JAY LAPRETE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO FUND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



A worker at Wild Ace Pizza and Pub fills a glass with soda. Local officials don't expect a soda tax, like one passed in Philadelphia, to be a revenue stream for early childhood education programs. JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHU.COM

Soda Tax: SC not likely to

THE LONG READ

Archaeological dig at Shell Ring revealing Hilton Head's past 1C



SPORTS

Club for young golfers finally has a home in the Lowcountry 1B



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68°/74° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

MARINE CORPS

6 of 7 female recruits fail combat jobs test

Among males, 40 out of about 1,500 fail the regimen that includes pull-ups, a 3-mile run, ammunition-can lifts and combat maneuvers

The tests are taken about 45 days into basic training

MORE INSIDE

Do you have what it takes to get a combat job in the Marine Corps? 9A

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Six months after the Pentagon ordered all combat jobs open to women, seven female Marines are either serving in those posts or waiting to serve, and 167 are performing non-combat duties in front-line units, according to new data obtained by The Associated Press.

The numbers underscore the

difficulty of integrating women into the demanding jobs and reflect the small number of women who want to be combat Marines and can pass the new tough physical standards required to qualify. So far this year, those standards have weeded out most female hopefuls and have also disqualified some men.

Six out of seven female recruits — and 40 out of about 1,500 male recruits — failed to pass the new regimen of pull-ups, ammunition-can lifts, a

3-mile run and combat maneuvers required to move on in training for combat jobs, according to the data.

Failing the tests, taken about 45 days into basic training, forces recruits into less physically demanding Marine jobs.

The high failure rate for women recruits, however, raises questions about how well integration can work, including in Marine infantry units where troops routinely slog for miles carrying packs weighed down with artillery shells and ammunition, and at any moment must be able to scale walls, dig in and fight in close combat.

The new standards are a product of the Pentagon's decision to allow women to compete for front-line jobs, including infantry, artillery and other

SEE COMBAT, 9A



BUSINESS

OLD TOWN, NEW RETAILER

Boating and touring company May River Excursions opens a store at the corner of Bridge and Calhoun streets. 9B



Little Green House on DuBois Lane in Bluffton.

DOUG CORNIN Submitted

Bluffton's foundation won't be built by Walmart

66

TOO POOR TO PAINT,
TOO PROUD TO
MOUNTAIN



LOCAL

WHAT HARM DID OIL SPILL DO?

The company cleaning up a Beaufort River oil spill says the spill is less harmful than 25 boats passing along the river. 3A



LOCAL

\$500K DONATED FOR SEWER PLAN

A grant from a local nonprofit launches efforts

Legion Ball: Post 20 plays Sports, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

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DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Davis, Kelly headed to runoff for sheriff

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Next week's runoff election will decide who will face off against Arnie Fisher in the November election for Greenwood's sheriff: two-term incumbent Tony Davis or S.C. Highway Patrol veteran Dennis Kelly.

In the June 14 Republican primary, Davis took 38.7 percent of the votes — more than either of his opponents, but not the more than



TONY DAVIS

50 percent needed to avoid a runoff. On Tuesday, the two highest vote-getters will face off to decide who the Republican nominee will be. Dale Kittles, a former captain who resigned to run, was defeated in the primary, leaving Davis and Kelly on Tuesday's ballot. "I've been doing this since 1975," Davis said. "I think experience in



DENNIS KELLY

this particular work is key." Davis said an incumbent sheriff runs for re-election every day he's in office, and that if elected he would continue to serve as best he could. He said he hopes Kittles' supporters will back him in the runoff. Kelly said after he took 33.7 percent of the votes in the primary

election, he would get back out in the community to court voters and get them to support him.

"I'm still trying to convince people," he said, "especially the people who supported Dale."

After coming in third in the primaries, Kittles said he was officially retiring from law enforcement. He said he was grateful for the 27.6 percent of voters who supported him — but they have to choose between two other candidates Tuesday.

"I've had a lot of people call me — especially those supporting me —

to see which direction I'm headed," he said.

While reserving an endorsement of either candidate, he said if voters are satisfied with how the office has been run, they should vote for Davis, while a vote for Kelly is likely a vote for change.

Voting in the runoff runs from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Contact Damian Dominguez at 864-634-7548 or follow on Twitter @JDDOMINGUEZ.

MOVING FORWARD



Bill Stevens, chairman of the board of Greenwood Pathway House, stands behind the lectern built in the woodshop by men who received assistance from Pathway House. Stevens was speaking Tuesday to the gathering in the sanctuary about the new Judge Curtis G. Shaw Shelter for Homeless Men.



Greenwood Pathway House expands to help homeless

By KATIE PEARSON
kpearson@indexjournal.com

The sanctuary of Greenwood Pathway House was filled with friends of the organization Tuesday afternoon as the new Judge Curtis G. Shaw Shelter for Homeless Men was introduced to the community.

Bill Stevens, chairman of the board of Pathway House, spoke on how thankful he was to the community for all of their help organizing the new shelter.

The shelter, which provides 30 permanent beds, will give homeless men a home base to return to as they receive the help they need from different organizations in the community, as well as within Pathway House. These permanent beds allow men to take the time they need to get back on their feet.

"I often tell our men that I'd like to take six months out of my life and just focus on me," said Executive Director of Pathway House Ken Kelly. "We are allowing them to accomplish this — to move forward in a positive way."

The cost of the new shelter was \$150,000, which makes up just 15 percent of the \$1 million campaign. Apart from the new shelter, the money raised in the campaign will be used to pay off the mortgage of the property, build a shelter for women, develop a direct mail income stream to support ongoing operations and ensure a supplement to be used over the next three years.

The funds raised for this campaign are a combination of pledges from Pathway House board members, various community organizations, and dozens of local churches. Greenwood Pathway House has raised \$800,000 toward its campaign goal.

"The men's shelter has been a tremendous success," Kelly said. "This is what the Pathway House is for — seeing lives changed beyond what is humanly possible."

See HOUSE, page 4A

GREENWOOD

County, volunteer fire departments close on operating agreement

By ADAM BENSON
abenson@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County Council is closing in on an agreement with its volunteer fire departments that will outline which areas of their operations leaders want to have input on before any expansions or upgrades are completed.

"Council wanted to be involved in the larger scale things like roofs and air conditioning units and structural integrity, but not the minor things, and that's what we have tried to do," County Manager Toby Chappell said Tuesday before presenting a proposed memorandum of understanding to codify the arrangement.

Under the plan — which the council is expected to vote on in July — Greenwood County's 12 volunteer fire departments would be responsible for such areas as outside landscaping, the purchase of equipment and maintenance of apparatus.

The departments must also provide the county with an inventory of their gear.

The county, which spends about \$810,000 annually on the departments, said the agreement is meant to provide a clear accounting of departmental operations.

"I believe there is great value to the county in having these volunteer fire departments. I think we probably would be looking at a provision to allow the county to terminate unilaterally, but also lets the council be careful in that decision," County Attorney Stephen Baggett said.

Council Chairman Steve Brown agreed.

"I've looked over it, and it looks to me like it hits the highlights of exactly what we should be considering," he said.

Chappell said he'll meet with the county's volunteer fire chiefs before presenting a draft

the Sumter ITEM

PANORAMA

Sumter Artists' Guild celebrates 50th year with exhibition C1

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City council approves \$62.58M budget

Upgrades at water plant also on Tuesday's agenda

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

After approving final reading of the city's 2017 budget of \$62.58 million on Tuesday, Sumter City Council dis-

cussed possible federal flood relief funding for homeowners whose property was damaged during the 1,000-year flood in October 2015.

City Attorney Eric Shytle said the city selected about 60 damaged homes in floodplains throughout Sumter that may be eligible for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to remove

homes from flood zones.

If eligible, the houses would be purchased for 75 percent of the pre-flood fair market value, he said. The homes would most likely be demolished, and the property turned into a green space to prevent other structures from being built in the floodplain, he said.

Shytle said a meeting will be held for the homeowners from 6 to 8 p.m.

on June 23 at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St.

The discussion of flood money allocation continued as Mayor Joe McElveen expressed his concern about the amount of funding he hopes Sumter will receive from the state.

He said the city of Columbia and

SEE BUDGET, PAGE A3

Still looking for help with flood damage?



KEITH GERAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Not all homeowners have been able to recover from October's floods. Work continues at many homes such as the one above.

Residents can learn about disaster recovery grants at town hall meeting

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

The South Carolina Disaster Recovery Office will hold a town hall meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 28, at Patriot Hall, 135 Haynsworth St.

State officials have recently been notified of \$96 million in federal disaster grants which will be available to qualifying residents in parts of South

Carolina affected by the October 2015 floods.

"We will be evaluating what the needs are in the Sumter area," said Beth Parks, public information director for SCDRO.

Parks said the Sumter town hall will be the first of several in areas heavily damaged during the floods.

"There are many vulnerable



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

October's flooding has had a lingering effect on the area's real estate market.



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Complete neighborhoods were flooded as more than 20 inches of rain fell in a three-day period.

Dingle pleads guilty to attempted murder

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The footage circulated widely in the

HYPE camp promotes literacy

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

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75¢

Summer storm tackles Cheraw

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A summer storm blasted through Cheraw last week, causing multiple power outages, flooding on streets that never flood and striking one car with lightning.

"I was driving from Wallace to Cheraw a little after 4 p.m., and I was on the second bridge," said Melanie Douglas. "Lightning was blazing all around me, and all of a sudden lightning hit right on my car. There was nothing but electricity all in my car, but it didn't touch me."

"My car just shut down. Nothing worked. It was on fire, and I was afraid it would blow up. I got out of the car into the rain, and I just knew I would be hit. Finally, a Good Samaritan stopped and helped me," Douglas continued. "I thank God I lived to tell the story."

Other residents experienced flooding due to excessive rain in a short period of time.

"When you see flooding on Market Street, Church,



Melanie Douglas says she's glad to be alive after her car was struck by lightning.

Greene and Kershaw, you know something's going on," said Cheraw Town Administrator Mike Smith. "I know residents were frustrated, but we're just not used to having that amount

of rain in so short a time."

The town also had several power outages.

"A transformer was down in the Reid Park community, and a tree knocked another transformer off the pole on



Many residents of Cheraw say they can't remember when so much rain fell so quickly, flooding areas that don't normally flood.

the 100 block of Huger Street," said Cheraw Fire Department Chief Marvin Murray. "Limbs were down on wires in several places. We got called in case any of the locations involved sparks

off the wires."

Duke Energy reminds everyone in its service area to call 1-800-Power-On (1-800-769-3766) to report an outage and advises against calling 911 as that only de-

lays service.

Residents in the Lynches River Electric Cooperative service area can call (843) 675-LREC (5732) or (866) 675-LREC (5732) to report a power outage.

Bittle pleads guilty to assault and battery 3rd, harassment

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A Chesterfield man who formerly served as a National Guard recruiter in the area pleaded guilty to second-degree harassment and third-degree assault and battery charges in general sessions court in Darlington on Monday.

James Marvin Bittle, 48, was charged with two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor at



Bittle

the time of his arrest in October 2014.

According to arrest war-

rants, Bittle was accused of sexual conduct with an underage boy twice between January 2007 and December 2008. The warrants state the alleged incidents took place at Bittle's home.

In one case, according to the warrants, Bittle became angry when the boy objected to the activity. The Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office opened the investigation and asked for support from

See Bittle, 3

Local law enforcement breaks heroin suppliers

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

For some time, the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office, Cheraw Police Department and Marlboro County Sheriff's Office have been conducting a joint investigation into a heroin ring that has been operating in all three jurisdictions, according to a report from the Chesterfield County

Sheriff's Office.

The report states the three agencies used undercover surveillance and controlled drug buys to apprehend two men who were being sought for supplying the heroin, 52-year-old Robert Earl Warren Jr. of 807 Langford Ave., High Point, N.C., and 39-year-old Timothy Rayon Fuller of 1908 E. Russell St., High Point, N.C.

The report further states un-

dercover officers placed a quantity of heroin with Warren and Fuller on May 26, who agreed to deliver the heroin to a pre-determined location in Cheraw for an undercover purchase. The two suspects later arrived at the location with the intent to sell and deliver the heroin and were taken into custody for the offense of trafficking heroin.

According to the report, Warren and Fuller were taken to the Chesterfield County Detention Center and booked on charges of trafficking heroin and habitual offender - felony class.



Warren



Fuller

Protest filed after election

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff Reporter

Democratic candidate Mark Ingram of District 9 has filed a protest against the results of the June 14 primary, saying some people voted in the election who didn't live in District 9. The deadline for filing the protest was noon Monday, June 20. The committee is required to hold the hearing the Thursday after the deadline, which is June 23.

Prior to filing the protest, Ingram stated his intention to do so.

"I'm going to protest the primary results," said Ingram.

"Since this is a primary election, not a general election, the protest will be filed with the Chesterfield County



Democratic candidate Mark Ingram of District 9 has filed a protest against the results of the June 14 primary, saying some people voted in the election who didn't live in District 9.

committee.

"I realized some people voted who shouldn't have when I saw the list of names of those who had voted and

wasn't in my district. Kevin (Thurman) and I went over the list of voters and found 19 in one precinct and 20 in another who should not have

Reward given for help in locating wanted suspect

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

The Cheraw Police Department is asking the public's help in locating David Antonio Little of 422 Winburn St., Patrick.

Little is wanted for aggravated assault in an incident that occurred on Marion Street in Cheraw Tuesday, June 14, at approximately 5:15 p.m.

port, Little was driving on Marion Street from Church Street and shooting out the car window when the green Ford he was driving crossed the middle of the street and hit another vehicle head-on. Little

and got into an unknown truck, leaving the scene.

The report describes Little as a 26-year-old black male with "Soldier" tattooed on his left forearm and "Aries" tattooed on the back of his neck.

Cheraw Police Det. George Halma advises Little is known for violent behavior.

"A reward is being offered for information leading to



Little

Camlin Moore

Cell: 803-206-8236

Office: 803-734-8044