

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 5/3/2016 8:40:49 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, May 3, 2016

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, May 3, 2016



Morning News

TUESDAY MAY 3, 2016

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Couple of showers,
heavy t-storms.
High 83, low 60.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

New Walmart in Darlington will open on May 11



The new Walmart in Darlington is slated to open May 11.

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — The long-awaited new Walmart in Darlington now has an official opening date: May 11.

Store manager Kevin Lane said Monday that the grand-opening ceremony will kick off at 7:30 a.m. a week from Wednesday. The Darlington High School band and color guard have been invited, he said, and will perform the national anthem.

Darlington Mayor Gloria Hines and Lane are slated to speak, and a ribbon-cutting will follow.

"At 8 o'clock, the doors open and it will be on," Lane said.

The 38-year-old Latta native started with Walmart as an associate paid by hourly wage at a Supercenter in Lumberton, North Carolina. He studied medicine at Francis Marion University but didn't take to it, so he decided to earn an associate degree in engineering at Florence-Darlington Technical College. He didn't really take to

that, either, and realized retail was his true calling.

"I've been with them 15 years," he said of Walmart. "I worked my way up."

He's worked in asset protection and inventory and spent four years co-managing the Florence Walmart on North Beltline Drive and a store in Rockingham, North Carolina. Last fall he was promoted to manage store No. 7188 in Darlington. Watching the

See **WALMART**, Page 3A

USA BOXING

Civic Center draws bouts

Amateurs will ring Florence's bell in June

BY SAM BUNDY
Morning News
sbundy@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — When Larry Frazier signed on to coach the One More Round boxing team in 2014 in Darlington, he couldn't have imagined the fledgling group would be hosting a USA Boxing-sanctioned event just two years later.

On June 11-12, though, One More Round will partner with Cladom Enterprise out of Virginia to bring the Southeast Amateur Invitational Boxing Championship to the Florence Civic Center.

Boxers ages 8-35 in all weight classes will fight in more than 50 Olympic-style bouts. The winners of Sunday's championship bouts will earn belts.

"Oh, man. I'm very excited. It's a blessing to have an event like this here," said Frazier, who was inducted into the Carolinas Boxing Hall of Fame in 2015. "In the whole Pee Dee area, One More Round is the only boxing team associated with USA Boxing. Reggie Lewis, the promoter in Virginia, saw us on the USA Boxing website, called us and told me what he wanted to do. I told him I thought it would be a great idea to have the Southeast Championship here, and so here we are."

Frazier said boxers from Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North

'SYMPHONIC JAZZ'



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN JORDAN/MORNING NEWS

Terry Roberts leads the Florence Symphony Orchestra during the first half of a performance Monday night at the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center.



The Mike Frost Band joined the Florence Symphony Orchestra for a night of Symphonic Jazz.

FLORENCE

In its season-ending performance, the Florence Symphony Orchestra presented its spring concert, "Symphonic Jazz," Monday night at the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center. The FSO, conducted by Terry Roberts, was joined onstage by The Mike Frost Band, featuring Lauren Meccai, Mike Frost, Bert Ligon and John Henry.

Get out of harm's way

Expert tells Rotarians how to evade an active shooter

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
jimimbo@florencenews.com

has climbed. Local law enforcement agencies are taking steps to prepare the public for these types of horrific events.

FLORENCE — Columbine, Virgin-



NATION

Ted Cruz facing a make-or-break moment in Indiana voting 6A



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

Which seven surgeries account for most deaths, highest costs? 4B



TUESDAY MAY 3 2016

75¢

VOLUME 46, No. 124
STAY CONNECTED ISLANDPACKET.COMFACEBOOK.COM/ISLANDPACKET
TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTONChance of storms
80°/66° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET



SGT. BRIAN R. CALHOUN, U.S. Army

The patch the S.C. Army National Guard, 133rd Military Police Company wear on their left shoulder is shown.

GUANTANAMO BAY

Beaufort soldiers to deploy to base

S.C. Army National Guard military police will go to Cuba during the next fiscal year

About 100 of unit's 140 soldiers expected to go

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com

A S.C. Army National Guard unit in Beaufort will deploy to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, a National Guard spokeswoman said Monday.

About 100 of the 140 soldiers in Beaufort's 131st Military Police Co. will leave for Cuba during the next fiscal year, which begins in October, said Lt. Col. Cindi King. She declined to give exact dates for the deployment, citing security concerns.

The soldiers will join Joint Task Force Guantanamo, which operates the base's prison camps.

"The National Guard has many deployments programmed on a regular basis to meet the needs expressed by our nation," U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Robert Livingston, the state's top military officer, said in a statement. "The S.C. National Guard's men and women continue to train and mobilize to support operations around the world whenever needed, including Guantanamo. We are very proud of our great Soldiers and Airmen."

Since 2002, Guantanamo has housed a military prison for terrorism suspects. According to multiple reports, 80 prisoners remain at the facility.

President Barack Obama has promised to close the prison and



DELANIA EARLEY, owner@islandpacket.com

A monkey can be seen on Monday running in an enclosure similar to the one from which 19 monkeys escaped on Sunday at Alpha Genesis research facility in Yemassee. As of noon Monday, all of the monkeys had returned to their enclosure.

ALPHA GENESIS FACILITY IN YEMASSEE

USDA to 'look into' escape of monkeys

Some of Alpha Genesis' monkey habitats are roof-less, tin corrals, which facility hopes to phase out

19 rhesus macaque monkeys figured out how to scale bent metal walls

Research facility uses some animals for on-site HIV-vaccine testing and has monkeys with dangerous Herpes B virus

BY WADE LIVINGSTON
wlivingston@islandpacket.com

Bent portions of the tin walls surrounding an outdoor monkey habitat allowed 19 primates to get loose at a Yemassee research and breeding facility.

Greg Westergaard, president and CEO of the Alpha Genesis

facility, said Monday morning that the tin wall of the monkeys' 40-foot-by-40-foot "corral" had begun to bow. That bowing created a corner with a ledge in the oval-shaped corral, and the monkeys used the ledge to scale the 12-foot-high walls and escape Sunday afternoon.

"You could say someone

should have noticed that tin starting to bow," he said. "The focus now is on inspecting the remaining corrals and doing some preventative maintenance."

Roof-less tin corrals comprise about a quarter of the habitats that are home to the facility's 3,000 monkeys. But Westergaard is trying to phase them out. Chain-link-fence enclosures — with a chain-link roof — offer a more secure environment, he said.

Security has been an issue in the past.

Westergaard said Alpha Genesis has been the subject of an ongoing U.S. Department of Agriculture investigation he believes stemmed from the 2014

escape of 26 monkeys at the company's Yemassee location, and another instance that same year when a single monkey escaped from its Early Branch site. That lone monkey has never been recovered.

Tanya Espinosa, spokesperson for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, wrote in an email Monday that Alpha Genesis is the subject of an "open investigation" but declined to comment further. The USDA is aware of Sunday's escape, she said, and "will be looking into it in order to determine whether there were any Animal Welfare Act noncompliances that contributed to this incident."

Animal-rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals filed a complaint with the USDA on Monday and asked the agency to investigate the matter. Another organization, Stop Animal Exploitation Now, has called for the termination of Alpha Genesis' animal dealer license.

Alpha Genesis is both a breeding and research facility. It does

SEE MONKEYS, 8A

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Migrant youths denied school in U.S.

Central Americans in 35 districts affected, AP investigation finds

BY GARANCE BURKE
and ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, TENN. — Candelario Jimenez Alonzo came to the U.S. dreaming of becoming something more than what seemed possible along the rutted roads of his hometown in Guatemala's highlands. This was his chance. He could earn a U.S. high school education and eventually become a teacher.

Instead, the 16-year-old spends most days alone in the tumbledown Memphis house where he lives with his uncle, leaving only occasionally to play soccer and pick up what English he can from his friends.

Local school officials have kept Jimenez out of the classroom since he tried to enroll in January. Attorneys say Jimenez and

Districts blocked migrants from school

The Associated Press has found that some school districts in 14 states discouraged unaccompanied minors from Central America from enrolling in schools or pressured them into alternative programs.



SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS RESEARCH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

at least a dozen other migrant youths fleeing violence in Central America have been blocked from going to Memphis high schools because officials considered the teens lacked transcripts or were too old to graduate on time.

Please see **MIGRANTS**, Page A7

Unaccompanied immigrant children in S.C. may be kept from getting education

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

A recent Associated Press investigation found some undocumented immigrant children may have been denied their right to a free public education while on South Carolina soil.

Elliott Tait, a staff attorney with S.C. Legal Services in Charleston, said he does not doubt that getting turned away from schools is a problem, but he has not come across any clients dealing with such a situation. In many cases, he said, migrant children and their guardians might not know that they are guaranteed by law.

"Most undocumented folks come here and they don't understand they have rights," Tait said. "In most of their experiences, the state and Big Brother are not helpful, and everyone's corrupt in government."

An AP investigation has found that unaccompanied immigrant children in South Carolina and several other states are sometimes denied their right to a public education, which was guaranteed in a 1982 Supreme Court ruling.

When immigration authorities detain an immigrant child who is not accompanied by an adult, the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement often places the child with a sponsor adult in the U.S. to live and attend public school as they await court dates. Sponsor adults are often family members and must pass a background check.

The latest data from the Office of Refugee Resettlement show that 55 unaccompanied immigrant children have been released to sponsor adults in Charleston County so far this fiscal year.

Please see **STATE**, Page A7

Time to give back

Lowcountry Giving Day making it easy to help local charities



GRACE BEAUMONT

Wayne Bodeau smiles and laughs after his ride with Fritz on Monday under the watchful eyes of instructor Melissa Weir (right) and volunteer Abbie Bosivert at Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding on Johns Island. "It's his favorite day of the week," said Sandy Bodeau of her husband, who has suffered health problems after serving 20 years in the Air Force. The equestrian organization is one of nearly 400 nonprofits participating in Lowcountry Giving Day. To read more, please see **Page B1**.

For a video, go to postandcourier.com/videos. For more photos, go to postandcourier.com/galleries.

Teachers worry cuts may hurt students

Some urge Charleston County schools to raise taxes amid shortfall

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

The Charleston County School Board is asking many of its teachers to do more with less this fall as it cuts the budget to the bone to avoid a financial shortfall, and some are frightened that they won't be able to do right by their students.

"I'm not yelling," said Emily Woody, a Wando High media specialist who was named district Teacher of the Year in 2013, at a Monday night school board meeting. "I'm raising my voice because I'm hearing the scared attitude, the scared feelings of the adults that work with our kids every day."

In a meeting where board members remarked that they were slashing "almost to the marrow" to make ends meet, teachers and parents lined up to tell the board about the human cost of their decisions. Several called on the board to avoid making further cuts by raising taxes, an option the school district has not exercised since 2011.

In Woody's case, she said the Wando media center is expected to lose three of its five employees due to cuts in the fall. District officials have said they expect to be able to place employees in vacant positions elsewhere in the district due to attrition, but the reality in the library will be tough, Woody said.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A7

Inside

LOCAL

City moves toward appealing Sergeant Jasper ruling. **A4**

BUSINESS

Gov. Haley would like port on Savannah River finished. **B1**

SPORTS

West Ashley senior sprinter to compete in Cuba. **C1**

BUSINESS

The Post and Courier's owner buys Columbia's Free Times. **B1**

Structural issues to force Mixson residents from homes

Tenants notified as North Charleston files building violation notice over troubled project

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON
and JOHN MCDEARMOTT
mboughton@postandcourier.com and
jmcdearmott@postandcourier.com

Residents at a 3-year-old apartment complex near North Charleston's

trendy Park Circle area have been notified they must move out by the end of the month because of structural safety issues.

The management of the Flats at Mixson sent tenants a letter dated Monday, when the city filed a build-

ing violation notice with the Charleston County Court of Common Pleas. The contents of the legal filing were not immediately available on the court website.

Spokesman Ryan Johnson said the city sent a letter to the Mixson property owner indicating a need to begin plans to remove residents. He said the city's Public Safety and Housing Board will meet May 25 to determine the condition of the buildings and

what needs to be done to solve the problems.

Elliott Howells has lived at Mixson about three months and said he wasn't looking forward to finding another place on a time crunch. Residents must remove all belongings and vacate their units by May 31 at 6 p.m. A moving allowance will be provided, according to the Mixson letter.

Please see **MIXSON**, Page A5



Storms developing.
High 83. Low 65.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B10**

Bridge B9 Crossword B6, B8 Sports C1
Business B1 Editorials A10 Sudoku B7
Classifieds C5 Movies B7 Television B6
Comics B8, 9 Obituaries B4 Health D1

Charleston
Deals today

Palmetto Brewgrass Festival
\$22 for 2 tickets.
See **A2**



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TWITTER.COM/THETATETODAY: CLOUDY, CHANCE OF STORMS HI 81 LO 61
YESTERDAY: HI 88 LO 68 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.30"
FORECAST, 8C

The State



Pearl Brown talks about the night her family's home of more than 100 years was fire-bombed. The Kershaw community raised enough money to build the former janitor a new home and fill it with furniture.

An arsonist destroyed her house.

Now, Lugoff-Elgin community, gold mine company are giving 'Miss Pearl' a new one



Kershaw unites after arsonist burns house of beloved school custodian

Estimated \$150,000 in donations pour in to get Miss Pearl on her feet

Dedication ceremony to be held on Wednesday

BY JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

Pearl Brown was cooking dinner for herself and her grandson on a cool Tuesday evening in November 2014 when

stunned to see her entire front room ablaze. She screamed for her grandson to run out of the back door into the piney woods. Barefooted, Brown grabbed a garden hose and tried unsuccessfully to fight the fire, which engulfed the cen-

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: Video: Miss Pearl Brown talks about the day of the fire.

which was built by her father, served as her home for 67 years and was firebombed with a Molotov cocktail by an unknown person 18 months ago. Authorities believe someone was trying to target a relative and got the wrong house.

"It breaks my heart," said Brown, who for 33 years was a beloved

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Indiana's primary is do or die for Cruz

Democrats' Clinton looks to increase her delegates

Holtz backs Trump as 'first class' candidate



Lou Holtz

Tuesday in Indiana is do-or-die time for the GOP's #NeverTrump movement and its would-be leader, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

And, according to polls, it is not looking good for the anti-Trump forces.

Meanwhile, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will move another step toward the Democratic nomination.

Trump leads by about 10 percentage points over Cruz in Indiana, according to an average of polls by Real Clear Politics. Ominously, for the anti-Trump forces, that

SEE INDIANA, 6A

Move over, Bobby Knight. Former University of South Carolina football coach Lou Holtz has endorsed Donald Trump in the Republican presidential race.

The GOP frontrunner, who was endorsed last week by former Indiana University basketball coach Knight, announced Holtz's endorsement Monday on Twitter with a video of Holtz explaining his endorsement.

"I wholeheartedly endorse Donald Trump as the next president of the United States. There are nothing but winners in Indiana," said Holtz, who coached at Notre Dame before coming to USC in 1998.

"The main reason I'm endorsing him: I've played his golf course. I've stayed in his hotel," Holtz said. "He does nothing but go first class in

The presidential races

Where the delegate race stands now

DEMOCRATIC

Clinton: 2,165 (1)

Sanders: 1,357 (2)

Needed to win: 2,382

REPUBLICAN

Trump: 996

Cruz: 565

Kasich: 153

Needed to win: 1,737

“IT HASN'T JUST BEEN ONE PERSON. IT'S BEEN A SYMPHONY OF PEOPLE.”



CHARITY CLASSIC, 1C HAAS' BABY IS THRIVING



LIFESTYLE, 1D Cancer patients get pain relief

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TUESDAY,
MAY 3, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

DOT: AIRLINES REPORT RECORD PROFITS OF \$25 BILLION IN 2015 PAGE 1B

★ ELECTION 2016



Senate and House candidates participate in a forum Monday at the Kroc Center in downtown Greenville.

LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Nanney, Elliott at odds over votes

Candidates' forum sparks
dispute about attendance

RUDOLPH BELL
DBELL@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

State Rep. Wendy Nanney of Taylors on Monday night denied a challenger's claim that she hasn't been "showing up for work."

Greenville lawyer Jason Elliott, who's challenging Nanney to represent House District 22, brought up the issue during a candidate forum at the Kroc Center.

Elliott said Nanney had missed more than 30 percent of votes during her current two-year term, through March 30, and more than 50 percent of votes this year through March 30.

Nanney denied it, but Elliott persisted, urging members of the audience to go to the General Assembly's web site to check his claim.

The exchange was one of the most intense during the forum, which also featured candidates for state Senate Districts 6 and 7 and County Council District 25.

It was sponsored by The Greenville News and chambers of commerce from

Greenville, Greer, Travelers Rest and Simpsonville.

Nanney said immediately after the forum that she had been out with personal illness for two weeks but added, "I have not missed over 50 percent of the votes. That's ridiculous."

Elliott also attacked Nanney for one vote she did cast — to keep the Confederate flag flying on the Statehouse grounds.

In response, Nanney told the audience it was a difficult decision, but her constituents urged her to vote that way by a three to one margin.

"I represent the district," she said, adding that she didn't feel strongly about the issue because, "My family fought on the other side."

Nanney is a former chair of the Greenville County Republican Party and chair of the Republican Women's Legislative Caucus. Elliott is a former prosecutor and aide to former Congressman Jim DeMint.

The contest between them will likely be decided during the Republican primary on June 14. No Democrat is running for the seat.

See VOTES, Page 5A

Sheriff's office: Man who points gun at deputy is shot in Taylors

ROMANDO DIXSON
AND MICHAEL BURNS
STAFF WRITERS

Greenville County sheriff's deputies shot a man who they say pointed a gun at them after he refused repeated commands to put the gun down during an incident in Taylors, a Sheriff's Office spokesman said late Monday night.

The man was taken to the hospital. There was no word on his condition late Monday. Greenville County deputies received



Watchdogs say ethics bills could instill confidence

TIM SMITH
TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA — Two ethics bills that passed the Senate will benefit the public even if they aren't paying attention but additional reforms are needed, two ethics watchdogs say.

The bills are part of a legislative ethics package that has been debated

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, May 3, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Student says 'bathroom bill' discussion can be educational

Aiken resident talks living as a transgender

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

For a 20-year-old Aiken County college student, it was never an issue of feeling trapped inside of his body, but more of an acknowledgment that he needed to be the person he truly always was and is.

Kory identifies as a male, but was born with female sex organs. He asked that the *Aiken Standard* not identify his last name.

A student at Aiken Technical College, Kory said he probably started to feel more male than female around the fifth grade. That's when he started to cut his hair short and started wearing more "guy" clothes, he said.

"But I didn't say anything really about it until about high school," he said.

From there, Kory came out to his friends first, calling it a "great experience." The second person, his mom,

"My mom wasn't really freaked out by it, but was more like, 'That's expensive,' and 'I'm going to lose my daughter,'" Kory said. "She's become a lot more open to it. My sister was pretty much the same."

Kory would come out a couple of times through his transition, as the transition for him was just as much of a process as telling family and friends about it.

"I can remember being in somewhere around 12th grade, and just going to my mom and saying, 'Mom, I'm serious about this,'" he said.

With the death of what has been called the "transgender bathroom bill," Kory, like others, are calling its aftermath an educational opportunity.

Overall, Kory said his coming out experience was positive, and that telling people was every bit as freeing.

"I wouldn't say I felt trapped, but I did feel, like, upset that I wasn't born a guy," he said. "I think my transition

Please see BILL, Page 9A



Kory, an Aiken Technical College student, said coming out as transgender opened him up to a new community. He called the experience positive.

Final salute



Retired U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Negron salutes his cadets during a change-of-command ceremony Friday at Aiken High School. Negron, who is retiring, has been the senior Naval Science instructor of the NJROTC at Aiken High School for 11 years.

Naval Science instructor retiring from Aiken High

Editor's Note: The following story was provided courtesy of the Aiken County Public School district.

In addition to being siblings, Jennifer Kitchens, Rebecca Kitchens and John Kitchens share another special bond — His name is Tony J. Negron.

For the past 11 years, Retired U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Negron has been the senior Naval Science instructor of the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) at Aiken High School. On Friday, during a change-of-command ceremony, he saluted his cadets for the final time.

"It was really emotional and moving coming back and seeing the ceremony and knowing that he's leaving," said Rebecca Kitchens, a former Aiken High cadet who graduated in 2014. "He deserves this recognition because he's done a lot at Aiken High School, and he really helped me become a better person in high school and the person I am today."

Rebecca Kitchens' older sister, Jennifer Kitchens, was part of Negron's first freshman class of cadets in 2005 when he arrived at the school. Jennifer Kitchens graduated in 2009. Their younger brother John is a junior cadet.

Rebecca Kitchens said that, under Negron's command, being a part of the school's NJROTC unit guaranteed fun and excitement. "Every day in the program was always fun," Rebecca Kitchens said. "Whether we were going outside to athletics or going on field

trips, it was a great time." Before Negron's arrival in 2005, the NJROTC program at Aiken High averaged around 120 cadets. That number has risen to more than 175 cadets in the past five years.

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Negron (Ret.)

trips, it was a great time."

Before Negron's arrival in 2005, the NJROTC program at Aiken High averaged around 120 cadets. That number has risen to more than 175 cadets in the past five years.

"It was a heartwarming ceremony, and I'm really embarrassed by all of the attention," Negron said. "It was just a really nice way to go out and say 'thank you' to the school and these students. These cadets are an amazing resource for this school district."

During the ceremony, which featured live music and special guests, dignitaries and former cadets, John Kitchens was named

Please see NEGRO, Page 9A

Aiken officer retiring to become minister

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU
tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com

"God has called me to serve the Aiken County community in a new way."

Staff Sgt. Jason Feemster will be retiring from duty with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office on May 19 to become the Minister of Children and Youth at the First Baptist Church in Clearwater.

"God has opened up this opportunity for me to go into ministry full time and I decided to answer God's call and say goodbye to one part of my life to start something new," Feemster said. "I've always worked a lot with children and families during my time in law enforcement. So, this won't be too big of a change for me. God has just called me to continue on the path working with children."

Feemster said he is a minister in



Staff Sgt. Jason Feemster with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office will be retiring May 19. He has worked in law enforcement for nearly 20 years.

Feemster has been working in law enforcement for nearly 20 years in both Aiken and Richmond counties. He said he is a little sad to go.

"I've got a lot of friends in law enforcement and in this community," he said.

"So, of course I'm going to miss everybody and the friendships I've made throughout all the years, but it's not like I'm moving away. I'm still going to live where I've been living and my new job will be even closer to home now. So you really can't ask for a better situation."

Feemster said he is ready to begin this new chapter in life with the support of his family and with God's love.

"God has just been so good to me," Feemster said. "I look forward to what God has planned for me."

First Baptist Church is located at 17 Belvedere Road in Clearwater.



North Augusta wins rain-shortened game
Sports, 1B

AREA DEATHS

Marty Bell, Aiken
Roger Dale Richardson, Johnson City, Tennessee
Joel Wolf, Aiken
Wanda Ritter, Augusta
James Terry Young, Graniteville

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

PREPARING FOR SYMETRA



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER / INDEX-JOURNAL

Several Symetra Tour players got in a practice round Monday at The Links at Stoney Point in preparation for the 2016 Self Regional Healthcare Foundation Women's Health Classic.



Christine Meier takes a tee shot on Hole 7 in a practice round Monday at The Links at Stoney Point.



Two trucks sit ready to be unloaded with signage and various items in preparation for the 2016 Self Regional Healthcare Foundation Women's Health Classic.

Lakelands gear up for the 2016 Self Regional Healthcare Foundation Women's Health Classic

Golfers from the Symetra Tour warmed up at the Stoney Point golf course Monday to prepare for the tournament this weekend. To learn more about the golfers and how they are feeling about the course, check out our coverage on **Sports, 1B**

District 50 school board discusses budget, discipline

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Some Greenwood school employees might see raises in next year's budget.

David Loadholt, assis-

would improve the sound system and audience lighting, he said. Other schools would be able to use the auditorium for presentations or performances.

The projects are slated to

SLED and GPD investigate possible arson

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

A fire Saturday morning is being investigated by the State Law Enforcement Division as a possible arson case.

Greenwood city firefighters were notified at 7:40 p.m. about a blaze at 201





HOLLYWILD PARK PASSES LATEST INSPECTION

UPSTATE, C1



UNION COUNTY ROUTS GREER IN PLAYOFFS

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

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TODAY WED THU

79°/54° 73°/49° 65°/50°
Complete forecast, B6

NEWS DIGEST

SLED investigating officer-involved shooting in Greenville

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division is investigating an officer-involved shooting in Greenville County Monday night.

Deputies were dispatched to an intersection near East Warehouse Court and Artillery Road around 7:30 p.m. to investigate a suspect waving a gun, Sgt. Jennings Autrey with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office said in an email.

The responding deputy made contact with the armed suspect and requested backup, Autrey said.

"A backup deputy responded and upon arrival, the armed subject turned his attention toward him," Autrey said. "The subject, with gun in hand, began walking towards the backup deputy. That deputy, with his service weapon drawn, repeatedly told the subject to get on the ground, and the subject refused to comply."

Autrey said the backup deputy fired at the suspect out of fear for his life, the life of his partner and the lives of the people near the scene. The subject was shot once. Deputies detained him and administered first aid until EMS arrived at the scene, Autrey said.

The suspect was transported to the hospital and his condition was unknown late Monday night.

Crime scene agents and agents from SLED's regional office were sent to the Taylors Walmart on Wade Hampton Boulevard in response to a deputy-involved shooting, said Thom Berry, public information officer for SLED.

Berry said he didn't have any additional details regarding the events surrounding the shooting. He said Greenville County Sheriff Steve Loftis would be releasing that information at the appropriate time.

— From staff reports

CAMPAIGN 2016

Trump eyes knockout punch

Cruz in survival mode as Hoosier primary may be last shot at relevancy

By Thomas Beaumont
and Steve Peoples
The Associated Press

OSCEOLA, Ind. — Ted Cruz's conservative crusade for the presidency fought for new life Monday ahead of an Indiana vote that could effectively end the GOP's primary season. The fiery Texas senator hinted at an exit strategy, even as he vowed to compete to the end against surging Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

"I am in for the distance — as long as we have a viable path to victory," Cruz told reporters after campaigning at a popular breakfast stop.

With his supporters fearing Cruz could lose a seventh consecutive state Tuesday, the candidate's formulation hinted at a time when he may give up.

Like Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Cruz is already mathematically eliminated from reaching a delegate majority before the Republican Party's national convention in July. He retreated to Indiana more than a week ago, hoping a win could at least help him deny Trump an outright primary victory and lead to a contested convention.

But a recent poll of likely Indiana voters showed Trump holding a commanding lead.

At a stop in Monday in Marion, Indiana, Trump supporters confronted Cruz.



Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz, center, talks with supporters during a campaign stop Monday in Marion, Ind. JEFF MOREHEAD/ THE CHRONICLE-TRIBUNE VIA AP

SEE CAMPAIGN, A5

NAACP CANDIDATE FORUM

Sheriff Wright answers questions



Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright, left, answers a question at a political forum hosted by the NAACP on Monday night as Spartanburg County Councilman Michael Brown, who acted as the forum's moderator, listens to the exchange. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

COULD HEAR BUT
COULDN'T SPEAK

'I was still in there'

32-year-old learns what it's like to be trapped inside her own body

By Lindsey Bever
The Washington Post

Not asleep but not yet awake, Brisa Alfaro could hear her doctors' prognosis: She might never walk or talk again, and she may never eat or breathe on her own. Maybe — just maybe — she would show involuntary movement, she heard them say.

She couldn't respond. She started to panic.

At the age of 32, Alfaro had experienced a brain-stem stroke, causing a rare condition called locked-in syndrome — one that leaves patients paralyzed but painfully aware of the world. She could hear — but she could

Comments about

the Sumter ITEM

TECHNOLOGY

Company trying to create safer 'smart gun' A5

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Forecasters warn of possible hail

Insurance agents say to prepare for possible spring severe weather

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

Recent weather forecasts in the area have hinted at the possibility of hail, and

area residents should take the forecast as a reminder that May and June can mean hail-producing thunderstorms along with lightning, damaging winds and

potential flooding. "It isn't unusual to have strong thunderstorms; it is that time of the year," said meteorological tech Al Moore at National Weather Service in Columbia.

"The cold air masses are weakening while the very warm air masses are strengthening, so the bound-

aries established by the two zones of warmer and colder air can produce the very damaging types of thunderstorms and heavy showers," he said.

Al Pritchard, owner and agent at Gamecock Insurance, said having your home and car insurance up to date is the best way to prepare

for potential hail damage. "I always tell people that if their property has value, they need to keep it insured," he said.

Pritchard said to take a look at your insurance coverage well before a storm approaches.

SEE DAMAGE, PAGE A7

Oh what a prom night



PHOTOS BY RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Joyce Funderburk struts a little with escort Corey Grant from Sumter High School. When Joy Prom guests arrived at The O'Donnell House in a limousine Friday, they were introduced and escorted into the building on a red carpet surrounded by local high school students clapping for them.

Sumter hosts 1st Joy Prom for special-needs children, adults at O'Donnell House

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

It was a special night. Many communities have had "Joy Proms" at which special-needs children and adults can get the experience of a prom, but no such event had been held in Sumter, said Gwen Herod, an organizer of a Joy Prom on Friday night at



The O'Donnell House.

"We heard about different Joy Proms people have had," Herod said.

Jane Graham applies makeup to Natasha Thomas before the Joy Prom on Friday night. The prom was organized for special-needs children and adults so they could have the prom experience, too.

could do one."

Hunter donated the use of The O'Donnell House for the event, Herod said, and First Baptist Church — across the street — allowed the use of its building as a preparation and registration area.

"We just started talking to people in the community, and they offered their support, and we threw it together," Herod said.

A limousine met the prom guests at the church and chauffeured them to The O'Donnell House across the street as Sumter Police Department provided safety and security.

The girls in the group were given corsages, and the boys were provided boutonnières donated by a local

"Wanda Hunter, who owns The O'Donnell House, and her daughter Sarah Mallorick and myself started coming up with ideas on how we

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THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

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Tuesday, May 3, 2016

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Teacher arrested for criminal sexual conduct with student

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Chesterfield-Ruby Middle School band teacher Bryce Benning was arrested Thursday for third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor. Chesterfield County Sheriff Jay Brooks said the sheriff's office received a report April 27 from the Chesterfield County School District



Benning

of a possible inappropriate relationship between a teacher and student at Chesterfield-Ruby Middle School.

The sheriff's office investigated the report, interviewing both the victim and Benning, who reportedly admitted to having an inappropriate relationship with the student.

The victim's family was

notified, and the investigating officers charged Benning with third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor.

Benning was booked at the Chesterfield County Detention Center, subsequently made bond and was released until an undetermined court date. Benning has since resigned from the school.

The Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office Victims Ad-

vocate Unit and school district office are continuing to work with the victim and her family to ensure they have counseling and support.

"I'm glad someone said something before the relationship went any farther," said Brooks. "They had contact by social media, usually texting, that allows for private conversation. Parents need to be aware of what

their children are doing with their cell phones. Especially if the child has it blocked or a password on it, parents need to find out what's going on."

Dr. Harrison Goodwin, superintendent of Chesterfield County School District, did not speak about Benning's arrest, saying he couldn't comment on a personnel matter.

Sinclair arrested for attempted murder

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A 26-year-old Pageland man was arrested for attempted murder last week after reportedly firing four shots at his mother's car while she was leaving for work.



Sinclair

According to a Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department report, deputies were dispatched to Dollar General in Pageland in reference to a shooting incident around 3:30 p.m. April 22. Deputy Stuart Robinson met with the female victim who stated her son, Garrett Evan Sinclair, is addicted to methamphetamine and had been acting irately. She said his anger was exacerbated when she informed him she had to leave home to go to work, and he grabbed a gun

and fired four shots at her vehicle, striking it three times in the front quarter panel on the driver's side.

The victim said Sinclair then followed her in a separate vehicle until she arrived at work. When the victim turned into the store's parking lot, however, Sinclair drove on. She said he later called her and said he would kill himself if she called law enforcement on him.

Deputies traveled to Sinclair's home at 1889 State Line Road outside Pageland in an unmarked vehicle and saw Sinclair standing outside. They then placed him under arrest without further incident.

A search of Sinclair's vehicle revealed a small amount of marijuana and a white crystal substance believed to be methamphetamine. Sinclair is charged with attempted murder, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and simple possession of marijuana.

Pageland to proceed with new water treatment project

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

During a special meeting last week, Pageland Town Council voted unanimously to apply for a \$4.1 million grant and \$6.7 million loan at an interest rate of 1.75 percent to construct a new wastewater treatment facility. The funds will come from the USDA, primarily Rural Development.

The net effect on residents' water and sewer bills will be an increase of about 26 percent over the next two and one-half years.

"This will be a gradual increase. The new system probably won't be online before the end of 2018, and of course, the more customers and industries that tie onto it, the lower the rate will be per customer," said Pageland Town Administrator Cecil Kinney.

The project will include

water treatment plant and sending wastewater to the southern plant, as well as constructing an administration building.

In other business, council approved \$8,000 from the hospitality fund to seal the parking lot at the Pageland Community Center. Kinney told council the contract was going to Amos Horton Grading in Jefferson because Horton was the only one to bid on the project.

Council also approved a law enforcement assistance and support contract with Myrtle Beach whereby each municipality provides additional police support for the other during its respective festivals.

Council went into executive session for personnel reasons and a contractual matter, but no action came out of the session.

"Eli" group honored for Adopt-a-Highway

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

PalmettoPride hosted the annual Adopt-A-Highway awards luncheon April 21 to recognize the groups receiving top honors for achievement in litter pickup efforts.

The winner for Chesterfield County was "Eli," in memory of Elisha Bryant.

Adopt-A-Highway volunteers accomplish more than just litter removal from state-maintained roads. This year saw an increase in groups, volunteers and miles covered but a decrease in the total amount picked up. The results of the 2015 statistics indicate the average volunteer picked up 40.2 pounds of trash per person, a three-pound decrease from 2015. The cost avoidance to the state is estimated to be \$1,754,387.

"Having people pick up

litter so much when they see somebody out there picking up trash," said Dick Griffith, Chesterfield County coordinator of Adopt-a-Highway.

Griffith went on to say that since The Link began its anti-litter campaign, two new groups have adopted highways in the county, and two more are interested.

PalmettoPride manages the Adopt-A-Highway program for S.C. Department of Transportation. This collaborative effort has revived the Adopt-A-Highway program across South Carolina.

PalmettoPride is a 501(c)(3) non-profit litter prevention and beautification organization in South Carolina that engages citizens to take an active role in keeping their communities clean and beautiful. PalmettoPride programs have helped reduce litter by more than 60 percent. For more information, visit

Relay for Life held in Chesterfield



Above, cancer survivors dressed in purple are walking the Survivors' Lap with family and friends during the annual Relay for Life, held in Chesterfield last Friday.

Susan Griggs/Staff Photographer

Teens lead police chase, land in jail

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Three teenagers from Charlotte, N.C., led Chesterfield County sheriff's deputies on a chase that began near Jefferson and ended with them in jail when a deputy realized the Mercedes he was following was stolen from Charlotte.

The chase led deputies up

U.S. 601 to the North Carolina line, where Union County sheriff's deputies and N.C. Highway Patrol officers continued the pursuit. The car reportedly reached speeds of over 80 mph during the chase.

After about 15 minutes, the vehicle ran into a ditch. When the three teens ran

See Joyride, 3

Chesterfield acts to prevent teen pregnancy

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Chesterfield Town Council partnered with the S.C. Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy at its April council meeting by approving a proclamation declaring May to be Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month for the town. According to information

ages 15-19 gave birth in South Carolina. As extreme as this number sounds, the rate was down 61 percent from 1991 and was the lowest teen birth rate for girls ages 15-19 ever recorded in South Carolina. The rate of teen births in the state costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

The S.C. Campaign to

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