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To:
Date: 6/23/2016 8:24:54 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, June 23, 2016

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Thursday, June 23, 2016

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Clyburn, Dems stage sit-in for gun reforms

Protesters pushing for votes camp out in House, taunt Republicans



Democrats in Congress, including Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga. (center), participate in a sit-in protest Wednesday to seek votes on gun-control measures on the floor of the House in Washington. They were prepared to stay the night.

BY EMMA DUMAINE
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WASHINGTON — House Democrats began the day meeting with their party's presumptive presidential nominee, Hillary Clinton. Then they went to the House floor and held it hostage.

In a gun-reform protest that captured the nation's attention, Democrats on Wednesday staged a "sit-in" on the

chamber floor, refusing to yield to Republicans until they were promised votes on expanding background checks to gun buyers and banning gun sales to individuals on the "no fly" list.

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., the third most senior House Democrat, was among the leaders of the demonstration, which after eleven hours still was going strong into the night.

Starting at around 11:30 a.m., Clyburn

and dozens of other House Democrats led by civil rights icon and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., gathered on the House floor to disrupt legislative business for the day.

Sitting on their side of the chamber — many of them planted on the floor — they took turns delivering impassioned, emotional and angry speeches for their



Clyburn

Please see **SIT-IN**, Page A6

Trump blasts Clinton as 'world class liar'

Personal insults fly as focus shifts to general election

BY JULIE PACE
and JILL COVINO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump launched a blistering attack Wednesday on Hillary Clinton's record and character, slamming his presidential rival as a "world class liar" who raked in personal profits from her tenure at the State Department. The billionaire businessman claimed, "She gets rich making you poor."

Trump's broadside marked his opening salvo in a general election faceoff with Clinton that has already turned bruising and deeply personal. The presumptive Republican nominee called Clinton the "most corrupt" person to ever run for president and accused her of spreading "death, destruction and terrorism" while serving as the nation's top diplomat.

Clinton, campaigning in North Carolina, called Trump's charges "outlandish lies."



Trump

Clinton

"He's going after me personally because he has no answers on the substance," Clinton said. "All he can try to do is try to distract us."

Trump's tone was pointed yet measured as he ticked through several of Republicans' favorite critiques of Clinton, including her use of private email as secretary of state and her role in responding to the attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya. Several of his claims were inaccurate or exaggerated, including incorrectly saying she wants to spend hundreds of billions to resettle Middle Eastern refugees in the United States.

Wednesday's address came at a pivotal moment for Trump's presidential campaign. The political novice has struggled with the transition to

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A6



Vi Duong (left) and Anh Lee of West Ashley shop Wednesday at the H&M Asian Market on Rivers Avenue in North Charleston. The Vietnamese couple moved to the area two years ago and now attend the College of Charleston.

Charleston, state lead way as Asian population surges

Locals see influence culturally, politically

BY ABIGAIL DARLINGTON
adarlington@postandcourier.com

The Asian population is the fastest-growing racial group in the country, and its growth in South Carolina, particularly in the Charleston area, slightly outpaces the national average, according to the U.S. Cen-

sus Bureau's latest report.

The group may be small — it makes up 2 percent of the state's population, and slightly more locally — but it has more than doubled in the past 15 years. Since 2010, the Asian population in South

Please see **POPULATION**, Page A6

USC may eliminate pledging for frats

Hazing, alcohol and drug abuse spur proposal

BY ANDY SHAIN
The Post and Courier

COLUMBIA — Fraternities can't stay out of trouble at the University of South Carolina.

Nearly 75 percent of the school's chapters, 18 in all, have been closed or placed on probation over the past three years for hazing, alcohol and drug violations. A pledge died last year from alcohol poisoning.

Frustration reached such heights that USC invited leaders from national fraternity and sorority offices for an unprecedented summit last month.

At the summit, South Carolina's flagship university proposed a radical idea meant to curb hazing and cut down alcohol and drug abuse.

"We want the University of South Carolina to be the non-pledging university," Jerry Brewer, USC's associate vice president for student affairs, tells Free Times.

Please see **PLEDGING**, Page A5

Restroom settlement may spark changes

Dorchester 2 rights case could influence neighboring schools

BY DEANNA PAN
dpan@postandcourier.com

A civil rights settlement with the U.S. Department of Education that includes far-reaching consequences not only for transgender students but for all students and staff in Dorchester District 2, may encourage neighboring Lowcountry school districts to adopt their own policies or risk facing similar lawsuits and federal oversight.

District 2's settlement, unveiled Monday, stems from a complaint a parent filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights last fall, claiming that the district discriminated against his daughter, a transgender student, by banning her from the girls' restroom at her elementary school.

Please see **RESTROOMS**, Page A5

Inside

CHARLESTON SCENE

Indie scene takes center stage at Hearts & Plugs' Summer Shindig. **E14-16**

BUSINESS

Wal-Mart to build fifth Neighborhood Market store in Charleston area. **B1**

Tiny rise in Social Security benefits next year. **B3**



Clear.
High 95. Low 76.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B10**

Bridge B9 Crosswords B3-4 Movies E11
Business B1 Dear Abby B7 Obituaries B4
Classifieds B1 Editorials A8 Sports C1
Comics B5-9 Local B2 Television B7

Charleston Deals today

Pirates of Charleston Adventures: \$38 for 2 tickets for 1.5 hour; \$85 for a family of 4 1.5 hour. **See A2**



SPORTS SPOTLIGHT ON SOCCER



LIFESTYLE Greenville man plays Jeopardy

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

THURSDAY,
JUNE 23, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY HOUSE DEMOCRATS STAGE SIT-IN TO DEMAND GUN VOTE PAGE 1B

Loftis' accuser had been fired as deputy

ROMANDO DIXON
RDIXON@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

A man who said he saw Sheriff Steve Loftis drinking during business hours was fired from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office in 2013 after he was charged with driving under the influence in North Carolina.

Brandon Brown, a former deputy, thrust himself into the middle of a contentious race for Greenville County sheriff when he went public this week with allegations against Loftis. He appeared at a press conference Tuesday

with Will Lewis, Loftis' challenger in a runoff for sheriff.

Loftis has said the allegations of drinking on the job are untrue.

Brown worked for the Sheriff's Office from 2002-13 and became friends with Loftis, the former deputy said. Brown was terminated after he was charged with suspicion of DUI in 2013 while driving his personal vehicle on vacation, Brown said.

Brown said he later worked at Outman Cigars & Martini Bar and became the general manager. Loftis said he has patronized the business and enjoys a ci-

gar, and his favorite drinks are black coffee and ice water.

Brown did not dispute that Loftis would partake in those nonalcoholic drinks sometimes. But Loftis also drank cognac at the business many times, Brown said.

Brown said the suspicion of DUI charge was later dismissed.

Brown described Loftis as a great guy who has served the county honorably but thinks Lewis is the best candidate.

"My employment status doesn't change no matter which way the election goes," Brown said.

Brown, who is friends with Lewis, said he does not have an ax to grind against Loftis.

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

The runoff vote is Tuesday. Loftis earned 41.9 percent of the primary vote and Lewis had 18.7, according to official results.

Staff writer Anna Lee contributed to this report.



Judge Brian Gibbons addresses the court during the trial of Suzanna Brown Simpson in Pickens on Wednesday.

LELAND A. OUTZ

Defense rests in trial of Dacusville mom

Three expert witnesses describe defendant as severely disturbed woman incapable of telling right from wrong

RON BARNETT
RBARNETT@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

PICKENS - Two psychiatrists and a psychologist testified Wednesday that Suzanna Simpson was incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong when she killed her two young children and shot her husband in the head three years ago.

The three expert witnesses de-

scribed a severely disturbed woman who believed her neighbor was the devil, that God spoke to her through a red light on her phone, and that her family wanted her to kill them and herself so they could all be together in a place somewhere between heaven and earth, to return after the evil that had turned the world into hell on earth was gone.

The defense in the case of the Dacusville woman rested its case after bring-

ing forward the three forensic psychology experts, all of whom had interviewed Simpson for hours and studied her voluminous psychiatric records.

At the conclusion of the third day of the trial at the Pickens County courthouse, 13th Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins told Judge Brian Gibbons that he wanted to bring in a witness Thursday

See SIMPSON, Page 4A

Commission votes against multifamily developments in Greer

MICHAEL BURNS
MBURNS@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The Greer Planning Commission has recommended Greer City Council deny zoning requests for multi-family housing developments on Brushy Creek Road, but the seven-member board has recommended annexation of the properties be approved with zoning that would allow the construction of 136 single-family homes on about 31 acres.

Greer City Council is expected to consider the matter at its meeting on July 12, with planning commission recommendations in hand and developers given opportunity to speak. Residents who wish to address council on the topic may sign up to speak during the public forum at the meeting's beginning by registering their name prior to the meeting at City Hall.

After also attending an earlier meeting when the subdivision proposals were to be heard but were tabled, dozens of residents attended the planning commission meeting this week. They spoke of traffic, crowding and safety concerns around the area near Riverside High School, where plans for more than 1,000 new homes have been approved since the economic rebound of 2012, increasing congestion on two-lane Brushy Creek Road between Greer and Greenville.

According to a South Carolina Department of Transportation daily traffic count from 2015, about 8,000 vehicles typically travel Brushy Creek Road between Greer's South Main Street and South Suber Road, which is just north of Alexander Road, while about 19,600 travel Brushy Creek between South Suber and Hudson Road, which is just south of Taylors Road in the more densely populated area of Greenville's Eastside and Taylors.

Planning departments and commissions in Greer and Greenville

See COMMISSION, Page 7A

INSIDE

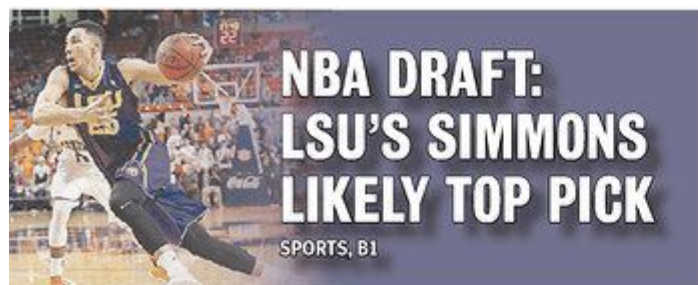
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NBA DRAFT: LSU'S SIMMONS LIKELY TOP PICK

SPORTS, B1



MAKS & VAL TO PERFORM IN SPARTANBURG

ESCAPE, D1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Thursday, June 23, 2016



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96°/74° 93°/72° 87°/70°
Complete forecast, B6

TOWN HALL

Improving access to mental health care, easing burden on jails

On Sunday, the Herald-Journal ran a special report on how the lack of access to mental health services have trapped some people in a cycle in and out of jail.

The problem detailed in "Locked In/Locked Out" is not unique to Spartanburg.

But communities like Baton Rouge, La., Bexar County, Texas, and Salt Lake County in Utah are trying innovative ways to get adequate mental health services to the people who need them. Those communities have seen savings to taxpayers and improved care to their most vulnerable residents.

The newspaper will host a town hall panel discussion at 7 p.m. Thursday to hone in on the issue in Spartanburg, what's working here and what's not, and to brainstorm ideas that could improve the situation.

Executive Editor Mike Smith will moderate the discussion, which will be held at the Herald-Journal's downtown office, 189 W. Main St., Spartanburg.

Panelists include: Sarah Wallace, president of NAMI Spartanburg; Heather Witt, vice president of community impact at United Way of the Piedmont and co-chair of the Behavioral Health Task Force; Michael Brown, Spartanburg County Council member and criminal defense attorney; and Paton Blough, founder of ReHinge, a mental health advocacy and support group in Greenville.

The event is free and open to everyone.

Parking is available in the Herald-Journal employee parking lot. Attendees are asked to use the employee entrance, which faces that parking lot.

CAMPAIGN 2016

'World-class liar'

Trump blasts Clinton in withering speech, says she 'gets rich making you poor'

By Julie Pace And Jill Colvin
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump launched a broad rebuke of his presidential rival Hillary Clinton Wednesday, accusing her of being "a world-class liar" who personally profited from her tenure at the State Department. "She gets rich making you poor," Trump said.

"Hillary Clinton may be the most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency."

— Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump

Seeking to steady his campaign after a difficult stretch, the presumptive Republican nominee cast himself as the White House candidate best positioned to address Americans' economic interests.

"This election will decide whether

SEE CAMPAIGN, A7



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at the Trump SoHo Hotel on Wednesday in New York. RICHARD DREW/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

21,500 CARS EVERY DAY

New Spartanburg High School traffic

The S.C. Department of Transportation's study of traffic at the site proposed for a new Spartanburg High School included this diagram of traffic flowing in and out of the school.



SCDOT: Roads can handle traffic from new Spartanburg High

Nearby residents remain skeptical

Pointe Circle and Dawn Redwood Drive are acceptable to

dropping students off and buses, White said.

ON GRADUATION PRAYERS

Federal court nixes SC ruling

By Meg Kinnard
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A federal court in Virginia ruled Tuesday that it's now up to a South Carolina judge to consider if members of a humanist organization can continue a legal challenge over prayers during graduation ceremonies at a public school.

In its ruling, a three-judge panel of the Richmond, Virginia-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a federal court in South Carolina must also determine if it's constitutional for the public schools in the Greenville County School District to hold events at religious venues.

The dispute began in 2013, when the American Humanist Association filed a lawsuit on behalf of a fifth-grade student at Mountain View Elementary School, arguing that the school had been

NATION/WORLD



Aiken Standard

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Mall developer closing on Dillard's

Department store sale expected by end of month

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

The Augusta-based developer who has purchased the Aiken Mall property said the firm plans to close on the Dillard's property at the mall site by the end of the month.

The mall deal closed in May. Dillard's was not a part of the deal because it is independently owned.

"We've had it under contract since shortly following the announcement of the closing and we plan to complete the purchase of the Dillard's facilities before the end of the month," Victor "Vic" Mills, CEO of Southeastern Development Associates, told the Aiken Standard on Tuesday.

Plans are to transform the mall into a mixed-use shopping and dining center. Southeastern Development paid \$3,025,000 for the

Aiken Mall property, according to Aiken County property records. The deed consisted of two parcels: the main mall site, excluding Dillard's, and an out-parcel occupied by Outback Steakhouse.

Mills told the newspaper when Southeastern negotiated the purchase of the mall, which did not include Dillard's, it hoped the store would stay open, but

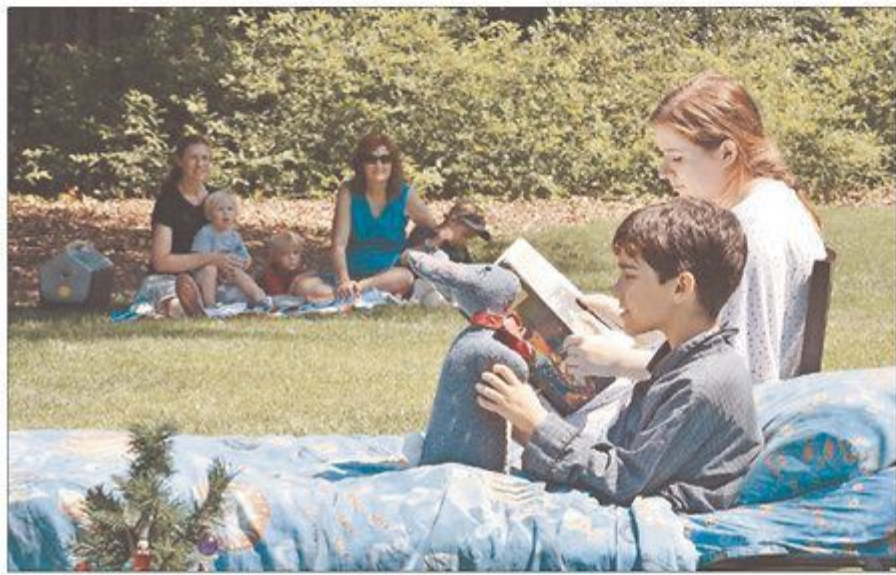
Please see **MALL**, Page 12A



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBONIC

The developer who purchased the Aiken Mall property is moving ahead with plans.

Youth Wing presents 'The Velveteen Rabbit'



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBONIC

Above, the Carey family watches as the Aiken Community Playhouse Youth Wing presented the Summer 2016 Garden Theatre production of "The Velveteen Rabbit". Caroline Taylor narrated, Daniel Ateca played Boy, Ella Dietzel was the fairy, and Jessica Spires is Velveteen Rabbit.



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBONIC



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBONIC

Approving budget proved tough task for City Council

Roads, parks highlight City's \$53 million spending plan

BY DAN BROWN
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Aiken City Council was faced with some difficult, but necessary decisions when it came to approving the 2016-17 budget Monday.

Faced with a crumbling infrastructure, heavy traffic issues throughout town, several capital improvement projects too long gathering dust and no means of a roads repair program, Council members dug in their heels, rolled up their sleeves and got busy during the six weeks leading up to Monday's second and final vote.

Included in the new budget is a new roads program funded by a \$20 per vehicle maintenance fee, as well as a new traffic improvement and safety program that will allow the city to work proactively on the maintenance of its 91 miles of City roads.

City leaders are also looking to develop new roads that would help alleviate traffic congestion through town and at the new mall development that will be coming in the near future.

Also included in the traffic improvement and safety program is the building of new sidewalks, bike paths, parkways, improvements to the City's infrastructure, and the repair to the Department of Public Safety Headquarters.

Council also approved final plans for the new \$3.45 million Eustis Park Senior Youth Center and a \$2.8 million Phase I of the new Northside Park.

Projects that have been gathering dust on City shelves are now moving forward and will be turning shovels in 2016.

Council member Leslie Price said she was pleased to see the City moving forward on many long-standing projects and addressing the concerns Council had when it interviewed City Manager John Klimm for his position a year ago.

"In the interview we had when considering John Klimm, we asked him how he would implement a roads and infrastructure maintenance program," she said. "He is only following what council shared with him as our concerns for the maintenance repair of our City roads. The budget we passed and the fees we passed allows John to move this City forward in a positive way and implement some great plans for our City."

Price said nobody likes to add new fees and taxes, but these were necessary to address serious problems plaguing the City's assets.

"I'm pleased that we have managed to address these concerns and see them move forward," she said. "Am I pleased with new fees and taxes? No. But we have to make these difficult decisions to move the City forward. The roads are an

Please see **BUDGET**, Page 12A



AREA DEATHS

Marion "Anne" Clark Holloway,
Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

More photos from the
production | 12A



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Morning News

THURSDAY JUNE 23, 2016

TODAY'S
WEATHER

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High 100, low 75.
DETAILS 2A

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Latta police chief plans sheriff bid

Crystal Moore collecting signatures, petitioning to be added to November ballot

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
jimbimo@florencenews.com

LATTA — Latta Police Chief Crystal Moore announced Wednesday morning that she will petition to become a candidate in the race for Dillon County sheriff in the general election in November.

Moore said the petition requires 980 signatures and must

be submitted by July 15. Moore said that starting Wednesday, she had plans to go door-to-door every afternoon across Dillon County to collect the signatures needed.

"I'm excited," Moore said. "It's just time for a change."



Moore

If Moore obtains enough signatures and the paperwork is certified, she will be listed as a candidate for sheriff in the Nov. 8 election.

Major Hulon holds the position as Dillon County sheriff and is serving his sixth term. Hulon barely edged challenger Douglas Purnell with 51 percent of the vote during the Democratic Party primary election on June 14. Hulon will not race a Republican Party candidate in November.

Moore made the national news spotlight when she was fired by Latta Mayor Earl Bullard in 2014. Shortly after the openly gay police chief was fired, a recorded phone conversation of Bullard was released in which Bullard said Moore's lifestyle was "questionable."

The town of Latta quickly rallied behind Moore and within days of her termination, the city council voted to change its form of government, and it rehired Moore as police chief. She was reinstated as chief less than three months after she was fired. Following an investigation into her termination, the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce found Moore was discharged without cause.

Florence Radio Club to host Field Day

Licensed operators demo science, service behind amateur hobby

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
jimbimo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence Amateur Radio Club will be participating in National Amateur Radio Field Day exercises this weekend to demonstrate the role amateur radio has within the community.

The amateur radio, also known as "ham radio," exercises will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday at Ebenezer Park on 842 S. Ebenezer Road in Florence.

WANT TO GO?

» Where: Ebenezer Park on 842 S. Ebenezer Road in Florence.

» When: Saturday at 2 p.m. running continuously until Sunday at 2 p.m.

and will run continuously until 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Club President Mac Cullom said during this year's field day, the club will operate a Morse code station, voice station, digital station and "Get on the Air" station. The Get on the Air station gives the general public a chance to be on air with licensed amateur radio operators.

A testing session will also be held during field day at 4 p.m. on Saturday for those wanting to pass the FCC requirements and become a licensed radio amateur.

Field day events such as this give operators the opportunity to showcase the skill and science behind amateur radio. For more than 100 years, this type of technology has allowed people to experiment with

Merging forces



Anne Layton, left, with the North Carolina disaster relief team, and Mae Woodberry share a word on the day of Woodberry's "homecoming." Her Johnsonville home was damaged in the October flooding.

NC Baptist team and Florence long-term recovery group celebrate first house completed since May

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
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JOHNSONVILLE — Mae Woodberry cannot see the changes that have been made

to her Johnsonville home. But she knows.

"I can't see none of it, but I can feel it," she said. Woodberry, a 90-year-old Johnsonville native, is blind.

In October, her home was

destroyed during historic flooding that hit parts of South Carolina.

Now, more than seven months after the flooding occurred, the home is refurbished. A celebration was held

Wednesday afternoon to commemorate the first house to be seen to completion since the North Carolina Baptist disaster-relief team and the

See RECOVERY, Page 3A

Final chapter for Book Exchange

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
perry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Leo Tolstoy, Susan

White, proprietor of the venerable used-book store at 617 West Palmetto St. "God is good all the time and it's time for something different."

In its 38th year of business, White



LOCAL

Will plans for a shrimp farm take root in Beaufort County? 3A



SPORTS

Zika fears keep golfer Rory McIlroy home from Olympics 1B



THURSDAY JUNE 23 2016

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RETIREMENT

Social Security benefit hike likely to be meager next year

Average increase in payment would be a little less than \$2.50 per month

Trust fund that supports Medicare now projected to run out of money in 2028

Trustees say some Medicare beneficiaries to face sharply higher Part B premiums for outpatient care

BY STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
AND RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Millions of Social Security beneficiaries can expect only a meager increase in monthly payments next year, the trustees who oversee the massive retirement and disability program said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Medicare's finances have worsened since last year, according to the trustees'

annual report.

The projected 0.2 percent increase in Social Security payments would come a year after beneficiaries received no increase. By law, increases are based on a government measure of inflation, which has been low.

More than 60 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and surviving children receive Social Security benefits. The average monthly payment is about \$1,232, so the average increase would be a little less than \$2.50,

enough to buy a gallon of gasoline in most U.S. markets.

Social Security's trust funds are projected to run dry in 2034, which is unchanged from a year ago. If that happens, Social Security would collect only enough in payroll taxes to pay 79 percent of benefits.

The trust fund that supports Medicare is now projected to run out of money in 2028 — two years earlier than projected last year.

If that happens, Medicare's

fund for inpatient care would be able to pay only 87 percent of projected costs.

"Lawmakers should address these financial challenges as soon as possible," the trustees said in their report. "Taking action sooner rather than later will permit consideration of a broader range of solutions and provide more time to phase in changes so that the public has adequate time to prepare."

In more grim news, the trustees said that some Medicare beneficiaries will face sharply higher Part B premiums for outpatient care. By law, the premium increase for most Medicare recipients cannot exceed their increase in Social Security payments.

However, about 30 percent of Medicare recipients are exempt from that provision. They are

SEE BENEFIT, 7A

SCHOOL BOARD

Roth says censure violates procedure

Beaufort County school board member says peers broke protocol by censuring him

Roth, of District 6, says he was owed a chance to defend himself in private

Fellow board member argues the board's policy is unclear, in question

BY REBECCA LURVE
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A day after being reprimanded for making disparaging comments about his peers, Paul Roth is firing back that he's not the only one on the Beaufort County school board breaking the rules.

The manner in which the board censured him Tuesday violates the board's own Code of Conduct, according to the greater Bluffton and Okatie representative, who said he was absent from the meeting's public session due to the limited air conditioning in the meeting space.

Before the board can vote to publicly state its disapproval of a member's actions, it is required to discuss the matter with the member in private, according to



Roth

“I AM SO PROUD OF ALL YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED.”

“DON'T TAKE LIFE TOO SERIOUSLY.”

Bluffton woman, her dad help send messages beyond grave

“IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING, DEAR GRAND-DAUGHTER, YOU WERE NAMED AFTER ...

“I LOVE YOU!”

Post 20 plays Williamston Sports, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 91, NO. 94

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Woodhurst breaks silence on controversy

By ADAM BENSON
abenson@indexjournal.com

With less than a week to go before her runoff election against challenger Chastity Copeland, Republican Clerk of Court Angie Woodhurst broke her nearly eight-month silence with the Index-Journal about a controversy that has swirled around the clerk's office for more than a year.

In a 1,539-word statement transmitted to the newspaper from her county email address on Tuesday, Woodhurst responded to media coverage



ANGIE WOODHURST

surrounding her re-election bid. On Tuesday, Woodhurst surrogate Dennis Clark told the paper's executive editor, Richard Whiting, that Woodhurst did not want any statement published unless the paper agreed to publish her statement in its entirety. Whiting told Clark the paper would not be able to honor that wish, noting it is standard prac-



CHASTITY COPELAND

tice for a newspaper to paraphrase and quote whole segments of statements. The paper did agree to send to Woodhurst the elements that were both paraphrased and excerpted in whole before publishing the story, which Clark agreed to on Woodhurst's behalf.

But on Wednesday, Clark said Woodhurst wanted to withdraw her

The Index's view

Check out our editorial on this controversy on 6A. Read Clerk of Court Angie Woodhurst's entire statement at indexjournal.com.

statement entirely, saying the Index-Journal took her statement out of context. Whiting told Clark that in addition to publishing quoted portions of the statement, the paper additionally planned to post the entire statement on its website and direct readers to that

link. That statement, which was made public record because she distributed it through her county email, was also sent to other media and Clark published pictures of it on Facebook.

In her emailed statement, Woodhurst directly addresses circumstances that led County Treasurer Sharon Setzer to alert the council last October that \$211,000 disappeared from a child support fund run by Woodhurst's office between October 2014 and April 6, 2015.

See WOODHURST, page 3A

GREENWOOD

Community Indicators Project hires first project coordinator

By KATIE PEARSON
kpearson@indexjournal.com

Robert Leon Grant III, the recently appointed Greenwood Community Indicators Project coordinator, said his love of the community is what motivated him to seek the position.



The 28-year-old's office is located in the United Center for Community Care building on Phoenix Street — the same building that once housed the Emerald Center, where his father, Robert Leon Grant Jr., worked. This has more meaning to Grant as his dad recently died.

Stepping into the building where his father once worked is not the only time he's found himself in his father's footsteps — he also attended his father's alma mater, South Carolina State University, living in the same dorm and sharing many of the same professors.

Greenwood native, Grant's love of community was nurtured by his parents. His father served the community by teaching at John de la Howe, working at the Emerald Center and helping families at the Greenwood County Department of Social Services. His mother, Brenda Lewis Grant, taught at most of Greenwood's elementary schools during her life.

He mirrored their passion for service, teaching middle school social studies in Spartanburg after he graduated from South Carolina State University where he was a teaching fellow. After four years of teaching, he attended graduate school at North Carolina State University where he

RIDING AROUND TOWN



PHOTOS BY ADAM BENSON | INDEX JOURNAL

More than 250 unclaimed bicycles collected by the Greenwood Police Department over the last 10 years are stored in a Wright Avenue warehouse.



Greenwood City Manager Charlie Barrineau stands amidst more than 250 bicycles collected by police over the past 10 years.

City offloading unclaimed bicycles to nonprofits

By ADAM BENSON
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One of Greenwood County's largest bicycle suppliers is preparing to give away its entire inventory for free.

On Monday, the City

Council gave its blessing to a request by City Manager Charlie Barrineau to donate more than 250 stockpiled bicycles to several charitable organizations. The bikes, which are being warehoused in a utility shed on loan from

See BICYCLES, page 4A

Small business owners gather for awards luncheon

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
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Small business owners from across Greenwood gathered Wednesday at

his more than 55 years of service in various committees and local organizations, Cliff Fagan was given the lifetime achievement award.

During the luncheon, attend-

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