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The Post and Courier

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Monday, April 18, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Officials certain Zika will show up in S.C.

Congress in no hurry to approve \$1.89B in emergency funding, despite pleas

BY DERREK ASBERRY
and EMMA DUMAIN
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Palmetto State experts said they don't want to speculate on whether residents are walking around with the Zika virus since there have been no reported cases as of Friday. But they

are certain that the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control will eventually start reporting confirmed cases in this state.

Meanwhile, in Washington, President Barack Obama's administration is continuing to impress upon Congress the dangers of not passing its \$1.89 billion request for emergency funding. Top officials with the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health warned last week that the start of mosquito season will likely lead to local transmission in the United States. So far, all of the confirmed cases are travelers bringing the virus back from other countries and U.S. territories. The CDC also confirmed last week that Zika is definitely linked to moth-

ers giving birth to babies born with smaller heads, or microcephaly.

Despite the warnings, the Republican-controlled Congress has not yet heeded experts' opinion that the virus is deeply serious and has the very real potential to soon be a problem in lawmakers' own backyards.

Please see **ZIKA**, Page A4



JAMES GATHANY/CDC

A female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito can carry the Zika virus, which may cause deadly birth defects.

Crash course in safety

Goose Creek students drive while distracted to learn key lesson



GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Junior Brynden Cooper runs over cones as he tries driving a golf cart and sending texts at the same time with EMT Jason Ramsey at Goose Creek High School. April is distracted driving awareness month.

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON
mboughton@postandcourier.com

GOOSE CREEK — When Jeffrey McElveen first started driving, he nearly wrecked because he was texting a friend when the car in front of him came to a sudden stop.

"That's what made me realize that texting and driving is not funny," said the 17-year-old junior at Goose Creek High School.

It was enough to make him think twice about

picking up the phone in the car but not enough to get him to stop cold turkey. He admitted at a distracted driving event last week to still fusing with his phone to change the music and occasionally send a text. He's not alone.

Distracted driving and driver inattention was a contributing factor in 67 deaths in South Carolina in 2015 and 18,580 collisions, according to the S.C. Department of Public Safety. Seven of those deaths and 2,529 of the crashes were reported in Charleston County.

In Berkeley County, one person was killed and there were 513 collisions, according to the same data. One person also died in Dorchester County and there were 327 crashes reported there.

Texting while driving is one of the biggest driver distractions, but tri-county authorities say activities such as eating, fiddling with the radio, applying makeup or grabbing something

Please see **CRASH**, Page A4

Teacher incentive program fizzles

Bridge eroded trust, morale, critics say

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

Three years and \$11.7 million later, the Charleston County School District doesn't have much to show for its controversial program that linked teacher pay to student performance.

The Bridge program, devised during previous Superintendent Nancy McGinley's administration and funded by a \$23.7 million Teacher Incentive Fund grant, was supposed to encourage and retain quality teachers by rewarding them financially for good performance. Instead, teacher turnover increased at most of the program's pilot schools, and internal polls showed that teachers weren't motivated by the sometimes-paltry payouts.

The district has spent more than half of the grant so far, with only \$604,900 going to teacher bonuses since 2013. The bulk has gone to pay consultants and a top-heavy bureaucracy of teacher coaches and evaluators to keep the program running.

The school board voted in February to pay one last round of teacher bonuses this fall and let the federal government keep the remainder of the funds. After that, Bridge will die a quiet death.

Well, quiet for some. For Drayton Hall Elementary teacher Patrick Hayes, the founder of the advocacy group EdFactsSC, who has rallied against the plan since the district won the grant in 2012, it's hard not to say "I told you so."

"It's absolutely eroded trust and morale. There's a universal sense that

Please see **TEACHER**, Page A4

Center works to invent a healthier Medicare

Experiments aim to curb costs, improve care

BY RICARDO ALONSO ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They work for the government and even their closest relatives have no idea what they do. It's not because they're spies or nuclear scientists, but because their jobs are so arcane: trying to reinvent Medicare to improve it, and maybe save taxpayers money.

In a sprawling, nondescript office park near Baltimore, some 360 people at the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation are trying to change the health care system, using the government's premier insurance program as leverage. If they prevail, the U.S.

may no longer have the worst of both worlds: unsustainable spending and unvariable results.

"I want Medicare to exist not just for my mother, but for me and my kids," said the director, Patrick Conway, 41, a pediatrician who also serves as Medicare's chief medical officer.

At the center are doctors, lawyers, health policy experts, and career Medicare employees. Many came from outside government. They're somewhat younger than Medicare's core staff. Some have seen how parents and grandparents can be harmed in the nation's disjointed health care

Please see **MEDICARE**, Page A5

Inside



SPORTS
South African takes Heritage trophy for first PGA win. **C1**

LOCAL
Charleston synagogue hopes to repair historic cemetery. **A3**

WORLD
Aid flowing to Ecuador as quake toll rises to 246. **A7**

Trump's tirades about GOP rules may cost him

BY THOMAS BEAUMONT
and STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

DES MOINES, IOWA — Donald Trump's relentless assault on the rules that govern how Republicans choose their nominee is coming far too late to change what even defenders acknowledge is a complicated selection system.

He seems to know it, too. Instead, his railing against a "rigged" process appears aimed at amplifying his central message to an angry electorate: America is a mess, and only Trump can clean it up.

In the Wall Street Journal interview, he equated the party's nomination procedures with the "unfair trade, immigration and economic policies that have also been rigged against Americans."



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has criticized the Republican party over how it chooses a nominee.

He added, "Let me ask America a question: How has the 'system' been working out for you and your family?"

Underlying the constant criticism, Trump's goal is to rally supporters and pile up primary season victories that would bring him the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination outright before the summer convention.

Please see **GOP**, Page A5



Sunny and clear.
High 77, Low 52.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B8**

Bridge B7
Business D1
Classified C7
Comics B6, 7
Crossword B6, C10
Editorials A8
Entertainment B5
Obituaries B2
Some B1
Sports C1
Sudoku B5
Television B4

Charleston Deals Today
Apex Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
\$149 for 15 units of Botox (valued at \$265). See **A2**



BASEBALL

Georgia tops USC 5-3 to take series; Gamecocks still tied at No. 1 in SEC, 1B
Columbia Fireflies drop third-straight home game to Greenville Drive, 4B



Braves win in 10 to complete sweep of Marlins, 4B

MONDAY APRIL 18 2016

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The State

DISCIPLINE IN OUR SCHOOLS

SC's disturbing-schools bills at a standstill

Bills were introduced after sheriff's deputy forcibly removed student

Two bills would exempt students from law

Critics say law has been abused, was meant to protect students from outsiders

BY JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

After a white sheriff's deputy forcibly removed an African-American Spring Valley High School student from her desk, S.C. lawmakers called for changes to a law they say unfairly criminalizes students.

But, six months later, those reform efforts are going nowhere. To date, four S.C. bills aimed at

changing South Carolina's disturbing-schools law remain stuck in committee, where they were sent shortly after being introduced in the Republican-controlled legislature. The bills are sponsored almost exclusively by Democrats.

Two bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, would exclude students from the threat of being arrested under the law. Sponsors argue that the law was intended to protect students from outsiders coming on a school's campus,

loitering there, causing a disturbance or threatening students' safety.

A separate House bill would require the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy to teach police officers who work in schools about the various cultures, backgrounds, behaviors and attitudes they might encounter, expose them to different communities and tell them of services available for students to

SEE SCHOOLS, 7A

8 TO 16

Percent of disturbing-schools referrals statewide that came from Lexington and Richland counties from 2001 to 2010

600

Number of school-resource officers estimated to be working in S.C. public schools

MORE INSIDE

How often are disturbing-schools charges made in Richland, Lexington and Kershaw schools? A look, 7A

ONLINE

thestate.com: Read the first part of this series, published Sunday, on the racial disparity in suspensions-and-expulsions in S.C. and Midlands schools.



RBC HERITAGE

SUNDAY SURGE

BRANDEN GRACE RACES PAST COMPETITION IN FINAL ROUND TO CLAIM FIRST PGA TITLE,

COVERAGE 1B, 3B

DELAUNA EARLEY/The Hilton Head Island Packet

Branden Grace hits his ball from fairway of the ninth hole during the final round of the RBC Heritage on Sunday at Harbour Town Golf Links in Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island. Visit thestate.com for more photos from the RBC Heritage.



PALMETTO VOICES

IN SEARCH OF SAFE BATHROOMS?

Columbia mom Evelyn Clary says the bathroom problem that actually needs a solution is parents trying to find a safe place for small children of the opposite sex, 1C



LOCAL

LET'S EAT

At Sunday's Big Nosh, attendees come for the food - traditional Jewish food specialties like latkes, beef brisket, knish and others, 3A



USA CYCLING
COMES TO
TOWN
SPORTS, 1C



The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,
APRIL 18, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY 238 KILLED, HUNDREDS HURT IN ECUADOR'S 7.8 EARTHQUAKE PAGE 1B

Council exploring development options

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Sitting on more than 28 acres of some of downtown Greenville's most in-demand real estate is a drab, squat government office building. Greenville County Council could change that.

A newly-assembled committee is examining the future of County Square, the county government's headquarters on University Ridge that's less than a mile

from Fluor Field and Falls Park, and less than two miles from the heart of Greenville's downtown.

One of the county's options would be to "go vertical" — redevelop the stout, labyrinthine County Square into a tower, said Councilman Jim Burns, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on County Square Development. Going vertical would use less of the property's 28.72 acres, freeing them up for sale by the county.

"If we were to go vertical and it only

took us 10 acres, selling the remaining acres could be an option," Burns said. "It's very early. We're still evaluating everything."

The availability of that much land is less and less common in downtown Greenville since the demand for housing in the city's center has boomed and apartment complexes and multi-use developments have sprung up in response.

South Ridge Apartments, less than 300 feet from County Square, is one of

the latest, with a biscuit restaurant and pizzeria planned for the complex and apartments starting at \$1,025 a month. It was built on 8.715 acres, less than a third of the size of County Square's acreage. The size of the land that could be freed up is what opens it up to myriad possibilities.

"Twenty-eight acres? That doesn't come along often in the city of Green-

See COUNCIL, Page 5A

'Mother Church of Greenville' completing \$3.3M renovation



MICHAEL BURNS II MOBURNS@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

A \$3.3 million renovation is nearing completion to help the "Mother Church of Greenville" better nurture its historic congregation. ■ Brushy Creek Baptist Church Taylors, which dates to the presidency of George Washington, has only a few Sundays remaining before a spacious new lobby, stairwell and elevator will improve safety, comfort and function. ■ For six months members have weaved through construction zones to reach services and classes. ■ By June the sounds of conversations and laughs will fill the space where drills and hammers have rung.

Senior Pastor Ralph Carter, who's served at the church for 24 years, smiled as he surveyed progress. Fir and pine beams line the tongue-and-groove ceiling atop the bright lobby that's replacing the open-air breezeway where members used to linger only briefly, braving the weather.

A large cross will bear the soul of the church's mission for all traveling on Old Spartanburg Road to see. There will be no mistaking what some assumed was a school building's old institutional facade.

"It's beautiful, isn't it. We think it's going to be far more conducive to fellowship and worship."

spawned its name to give the church its start just after colonial times. Records show 40 or so attended before the church's "Great Revival" in 1831 boosted membership to 190, according to history compiled by Susan Frazier Kahl.

From 1902 until 1994 the church established footing at the corner of Old Spartanburg and Brushy Creek roads, where Grace Baptist Church moved in once Brushy Creek built its new location across the street, and a brick tower, Crossville,

McMaster backs Haley on DOT bill

JOSHUA LLOYD
FLORENCE NEWS

FLORENCE - South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster says he supports Gov. Nikki Haley's stand on reorganizing the Department of Transportation.

McMaster was in Florence last week for an event with local seniors to discuss emergency disaster preparedness. After his presentation, McMaster spoke to the Morning News about several topics making headlines across the state, including the contentious roads bill and the controversial transgender bathroom bill.

Earlier in the week the House altered the Senate's road plan — leading to a consensus among many senators and Haley that the bill would not pass its last run through the Senate.

The House amendments remove the \$400 million annual general fund mandate and took away the governor's power to appoint all members of the DOT board, and instead requires House and Senate approval of board members and gives \$415 million extra to the Department of Transportation.

McMaster said he supported the Senate bill and stands by Haley's take on the debate.

"The highway department has got to be reorganized," he said. "Others have said and I agree, throwing more money their way is like pouring water into a bucket with holes in it. I support the governor and those who are proposing that."

When asked if he would suggest the Senate vote down the bill that's been under debate for more than two years, he said he'd have to consider the House amendments and go from there.

"I'm confident that we will get the job done, and I'm encouraging everyone to get something done in a hurry," he said.

Transgender

Earlier this month, Spartanburg Republican Sen. Lee Bright introduced a bill that would require multi-stall bathrooms on public property to be designated "based on biological sex." It specifically includes student bathrooms, locker rooms and shower rooms in public schools.

If passed, the bill would also ban local governments from passing laws allowing transgender people to use the bathrooms or locker rooms of the gender with which they identify. The



THE ISLAND PACKET

RBC HERITAGE

AMAZING GRACE

Branden Grace
takes Heritage
with 2-shot win





EDWARDS NEARLY FLAWLESS AT BRISTOL

SPORTS, B1



SWC SWEEPS PAIR FROM USC SUMTER

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, April 18, 2016



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Complete forecast, A10

NEWS DIGEST



TOP: Police are searching for this suspect in connection with a 2 a.m. robbery at a Quik Trip store on East Saint John Street. **BOTTOM:** Police say this is the suspect in a 7 a.m. robbery Sunday at the Quik Trip on West Main Street in Spartanburg. PHOTOS PROVIDED.

Police report two armed robberies in city

Spartanburg Police continue to search for suspects wanted in armed robberies that occurred at separate Quik Trip convenience stores early Sunday.

Officers responded at 2 a.m. Sunday to a Quik Trip convenience store at 448 E. Saint John St. for a reported armed robbery. According to Maj. Art Littlejohn of the Spartanburg police, a single bald black male wearing a hooded jacket and faded blue jeans allegedly took money from the business.

Littlejohn said another armed robbery was reported in the city at about 7 a.m. Sunday at a Quik Trip store at 489 W. Main St. The suspects are different and investigators are not sure if the robberies are related, he said.

There were no injuries in either incident. Littlejohn said the suspects took small sums of cash from the stores they allegedly robbed.

—From staff reports

REGION

Superintendent killed in accident

TOLL LIKELY TO RISE

Ecuador quake kills hundreds

By Dolores Ochoa and Gonzalo Solano
The Associated Press

PEDERNALES, Ecuador — Aid began to flow in Sunday to areas devastated by Ecuador's strongest earthquake in decades and the death toll continued to rise as people left homeless hunkered down for another night outside in the dark.

Officials said the quake killed at least 246 people and injured more than 2,500 along Ecuador's coast. Vice President Jorge Glas said the toll was likely to rise because a large number of people remained unaccounted for, though he declined to say how many.

Much damage was reported in the cities of Manta, Portoviejo and Guayaquil, which are all several hundred kilometers (miles) from the epicenter of the quake that struck shortly after nightfall Saturday.

But the loss of life seemed to be far worse in isolated, smaller towns closed to the center of the earthquake.

In Pedernales, a town of 40,000 near the epicenter, soldiers put up a field hospital in a stadium where hundreds of people prepared to sleep outside for a second straight night. Downed power cables snaked across the streets with

SEE QUAKE, A9



Volunteers and rescue workers search in the rubble of a collapsed building Sunday in Manta, Ecuador. A powerful, 7.8-magnitude earthquake shook Ecuador's central coast on Saturday, killing hundreds and spreading panic as it collapsed homes. PATRICIO RAMOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RBC HERITAGE

Graceful weekend



RBC Heritage champion Branden Grace is applauded as he tries on his tartan jacket after the final round of the 48th annual RBC Heritage on Sunday at Hilton Head Island. JAY KARR/THE ISLAND PACKET VIA AP



It's Tax Day
Did you remember to file?



INDEX-JOURNAL

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ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

CEO of Vanguard Furniture John Bray, left, leads North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory on a tour of the Vanguard showroom in High Point, NC. Gov. McCrory said it's up to individual companies to decide how to deal with a new law that requires transgender people to use bathrooms that conform to the sex listed on their birth certificates.

A difficult position

State proposals on LGBT rights push business into spotlight

By **KATHLEEN FOODY**
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Major corporations invested in Southern states have become some of the staunchest opponents of bills they consider discriminatory, facing off against Republican lawmakers eager to portray their states as the best

home for global brands. The NFL, Apple and other behemoths have cajoled Republicans into rejecting or softening bills in recent years that supporters say protect people who oppose same-sex marriage on religious grounds. Companies are speaking up loudly again this year in states where such bills have been proposed as part

of a backlash to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized gay marriage. "As a company that is committed to the principle that everyone deserves to live without fear of discrimination simply for being who they are, becoming an employer in North Carolina, where members of our teams will not have equal

rights under the law, is simply untenable," California-based PayPal CEO Dan Schulman said in a statement last week ending plans to hire 400 people for a new operations center in Charlotte. The decision is among the largest tangible effects of a new North Carolina law. See **LGBT RIGHTS**, page 4A

FOR THOSE WHO SERVED



Dozens of revolvers and rifles line the center display tables and racks at the Greenwood County Veterans Center's museum, most donated by one collector and enthusiast.

County Council OK's new veterans center renovations

By **DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ**
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

More than a century of Greenwood's history is on display under one roof — the storied histories of local veterans who fought around the globe for their country.
At the Greenwood County Veterans

Center, which houses the Veterans Affairs department, their museum and Hall of Heroes teach lessons about our military's past and present, and serves as a lesson to those who might serve in the future. And of all the resources between those walls, the ones most eager to teach are the people working there.
Veterans themselves, the board members who operate the veterans center stay as coordinated, dedicated and determined

as they did during their years of service. Carey Bolt, chief of the Veterans Affairs department, said while the Army stays "Army Strong," their team stays veteran strong.
The staff worked together to make the veterans center what it is today, but when Bolt's department received the 106 Main St. North building, the former county
See **VETERANS**, page 4A



More than 5M tax returns expected today as deadline nears

By **MATTHEW DALY**

trict of Columbia Compensated Eman- approaches, with more than 5 million



SPORTS Carl Edwards wins Sprint Cup Series race at Bristol Speedway. **Page 1B**

Morning News

MONDAY APRIL 18, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny, pleasant and warmer.
High 85, low 51.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

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Having an interesting time in Havana

Carrington Wingard (from left), Norberto, the tour guide; Connie, the travel agent; and Barry Wingard on the streets of Havana.



Florence-area residents reflect on recent trip to Cuba

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Although leisurely trips to Cuba are still illegal for Americans, several Florence-area residents made a trip to the country at the end of March through a people-to-people program.

Simply put, this means a group must travel with an authorized tour operator.

Barry and Carrington Wingard of Florence and Helen McFadden of Kingstree made their first trip to Ha-

vana, Cuba, as part of a trip organized by the South Carolina Bar's Senior Lawyers Division.

It was a busy week with little downtime, but all found it to be thoroughly enjoyable and said they would go again.

Cuba was beautiful, McFadden said.

"It was spectacularly beautiful in a natural sense, in the tropical flora and fauna," she said.

Havana also had a European flair, Carrington said.

"The architecture, the ambience, the physicality of

it," she said.

And it was in the midst of major reconstruction and renovation, not unlike Florence.

Law and government

In sessions led by Cuban attorneys, the group learned about the country's law and political system, which was fascinating for the lawyers and nonlawyers alike.

Cuba has a unicameral legislature, Carrington said.

Plus, Barry said, the

See **HAVANA**, Page 3A

NATIONAL LINEMEN APPRECIATION DAY

'The people behind the power'

Father, son explain the pros, cons of living life on the line

BY JESSICA IMBIBO
Morning News
jimbiboo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Danny and Josh Haithcock help keep your lights on in good weather and bad.

They are a father and son with a combined 40 years of experience as linemen.

The Haithcocks are representative of the people who are recognized on National Linemen Appreciation Day.

Since its inception on April 18, 2013, the day is acknowledged every year to honor the men and women doing the demanding and treacherous work of power linemen.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, utility-line workers, also referred to as linemen, work to install and repair electrical power systems and telecommunications cables. The profession is hazardous and physically demanding, and it requires workers to endure long hours of labor, up to 16 hours per day.

Linemen work alongside other first responders during destructive weather systems and natural disasters to restore electricity and keep their community safe.



See **POWER**, Page 3A. Danny (right) and Josh Haithcock, a father-son duo, have been working as linemen for a combined 40 years.

JESSICA IMBIBO/MORNING NEWS



Spreading the word

In honor of grandmother, woman raises awareness of breast cancer

BY MEGAN MAY
Morning News

March in 2015 after a two-year battle with breast can-



Elexus McWhite held a breast cancer awareness walk in October in honor of her grandmother, Maryann

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