

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, September 25, 2014

SC Front Pages – Thursday, September 25, 2014



LIFESTYLE, 1D

'RED GLARE'

Conroy boosts Upstate author

METRO, 3A

Two in
Upstate get
rare virus

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY A FEW BAD APPLES TURN PHONE USERS OFF PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION K1

\$10M

DUKE
PLEDGES
TO WATER
CAUSES

\$15K

Funds that Clemson University will receive as a grant to provide a graduate-level course for K-12 teachers in hopes of enhancing environmental education in schools.

\$20K

Funds that the Beautiful Places Alliance will receive to fund new educational exhibits and signs in parks along the Saluda River and Reedy River watershed.

\$45K

Funds the city of Asheville will receive to install environmental kiosks, made and administered by the local arts community, on the Town Branch Greenway.

\$1.5M

Funds pledged to projects along the Dan River north of Greensboro, where a massive spill of wet coal ash in February coated miles of riverbank.

Clemson fraternity activities suspended

Complaints allege hazing, sexual misconduct, underage drinking

By Anna Lee

Staff writer
alee@greenvillenews.com

Clemson University has suspended all fraternity activities due to a spike in fraternity-related complaints — some possibly criminal violations.

From Aug. 20 through last week, 15 complaints of "serious incidents" were reported, including allegations of hazing, sexual misconduct and underage drinking, said Clemson University spokesman John Gouch.

The number "is much, much higher than normal," Gouch said.

"They were all serious enough that, taken as a whole, the university administration decided that it was important ... to hit the pause button and take a step back and figure out what we need to do to make sure people are safe," he said.

The action comes as authorities search for answers in the Monday death of a 19-year-old Clemson student during a morning fraternity run. Tucker Hipps, a Wren High graduate, fell from the State 93 bridge into Lake Hartwell and suffered a fatal head injury.

See FRATERNITY, Page 4A

Witnesses saw runners before death

Clemson student's body found in lake after he, others crossed span

By Ron Barnett

Staff writer
rbarnett@greenvillenews.com

Several people who were driving to work in Clemson on Monday morning have told investigators that they saw runners crossing Lake Hartwell on the State 93 bridge in the dark without any reflective gear, but saw nothing suspicious that could shed light on how Tucker Hipps ended up in the water with a fatal head injury, Oconee County Sheriff Mike Crenshaw said Wednesday.

Investigators have taken statements from all 30 members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity who were running with Hipps, a political science major and Wren High School graduate, and about 20 friends and other people who knew him.

See LAKE, Page 4A



JERRY WOLFORD/AP

The "Total Clean" operation removes coal ash from the material vacuumed from the Dan River. Duke Energy unveiled what amounts to a gigantic, underwater vacuum cleaner.

Environmental group says company should do more to address coal waste

By Eric Connor

Staff writer
econnor@greenvillenews.com

The Upstate's chief energy provider has pledged \$10 million in the Carolinas to create a new fund dedicated to water resource initiatives, setting aside the largest portion for a North Carolina river that suffered a massive coal-related spill earlier this year.

Duke Energy's Water Resources Fund is designed to support projects and pro-

See DUKE, Page 4A



HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

Clark Gillespy, president for Duke Energy South Carolina, announced a \$10 million Water Resources Fund at Falls Park on Wednesday.



Fright, film, fun and food this weekend

CHARLESTON SCENE, E16-17



State debuts new plan to tackle obesity

THE SOUTH, B1

The Post and Courier

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THURSDAY, September 25, 2014

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Constable dies in Goose Creek standoff

Wife says violence stemmed from reaction to cancer meds

BY CHRISTINA ELMORE
celmore@postandcourier.com

GOOSE CREEK — Brian Eugene Rice, a state constable, pointed four guns at his wife and threatened to shoot her in the head if she didn't leave their home Tuesday night, the woman

said in a call to 911. "I hope he's not going to shoot himself," Karen Rice said to a dispatcher from the safety of a church near her McClain Street home.

Brian Rice, 57, died four hours later from gunshot wounds he suffered after firing at investigators who re-



To hear the 911 call, go to postandcourier.com/audio.

sponded to the home to help. State and local authorities are investigating the shootout and Rice's wife's claims that the violence stemmed from an adverse reaction to his cancer medication.

Neighbors Wednesday morning

recalled hearing gunfire and seeing swarms of police, SWAT teams and sheriff's deputies from Berkeley and Charleston counties comb through the Highland neighborhood the night before.

Several neighbors were evacuated to nearby businesses as a safety precaution. Others arrived at the community only to find that it and sections of nearby Red Bank Road had been cordoned off. All were kept at bay into the early morning hours.

The ordeal began at 9:11 p.m. at 501 McClain St., Goose Creek police Capt. John Granger said. Officers responded to what was described to them as an act of criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature.

Karen Rice told investigators that she fled her home after her husband threatened to kill her. Rice pointed four guns at her and had plenty more in the house, the woman reported.

Please see **STANDOFF**, Page A6

Greeks under scrutiny

Clemson suspends fraternity activities following student's death



Jim Clements, president of Clemson University, leads a moment of silence during a vigil for Tucker Hipps as people use their cellphones to illuminate Bowman Field at Clemson on Tuesday night.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

Clemson University has suspended activities for all 24 of the student fraternities following reports ranging from alcohol abuse to sexual misconduct, days after a fraternity member died and was found in the water under a

bridge, and four years after the university did virtually the same thing for similar problems.

The death of Tucker Hipps has not been tied to hazing, according to Oconee County Sheriff's deputies. Hipps was found in the water under a bridge after fraternity brothers said he fell behind on an early morning run.

Clemson's Vice President for Student Affairs Gail DeSabatino said in a release that the school suspended fraternity and sorority activities after reports of possible criminal activities and violations of the university's code of conduct.

Please see **CLEMSON**, Page A5



Hipps

Poll

Should Greek life be more closely monitored by colleges and universities? Find this story at postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Obama presses allies to join fight

Islamic State gets stern warning in speech at U.N.

BY MARK LANDLER
New York Times News Service

UNITED NATIONS — President Barack Obama on Wednesday charted a muscular new course for the United States in a turbulent world, telling the U.N. General Assembly in a bluntly worded speech that the American military would work with allies to dismantle the Islamic State's "network of death" and warning Russia that it would pay for its bullying of Ukraine.

Two days after ordering airstrikes on dozens of militant targets in Syria, Obama issued a fervent call to arms against the Islamic State — the once-reluctant warrior now apparently resolved to waging a struggle against Islamic extremism for the remainder of his presidency.

"Today, I ask the world to join in this effort," Obama said, seeking to buttress a global coalition that he said would train and equip troops to fight the group, also known as ISIL, starve it of financial resources, and halt the flow of foreign recruits to its ranks.

"Those who have joined ISIL should leave the battlefield while they can," Obama said, foreshadowing the blows to come. "For we will not succumb to threats, and we will demonstrate that the future belongs to those who build, not those who destroy." The brutality of the militants, he said, "forces us to look into the heart of darkness."



Obama

Please see **OBAMA**, Page A6

Chief Greenberg remembered as passionate leader, quirky innovator

BY GLENN SMITH
and SCHUYLER KROPP
gsmith@postandcourier.com
skropp@postandcourier.com

Former Charleston Police Chief Reuben M. Greenberg, a charismatic and combative leader who drove down crime and drew national attention to the Holy City during his 23 years as its

top cop, died Wednesday after a long period of declining health. He was 71. Mayor Joe Riley said Greenberg — the city's first and only black police chief — will long be remembered as a pioneer and innovative peace setter who led the force at a time when Charleston was growing again in terms of national prominence.

"He is an historic figure in this his-

toric city," Riley said shortly after news of Greenberg's passing began to spread. "The quality and the credibility of his police leadership made him a national figure."

Greenberg died in Charleston where he had been cared for in an assisted living facility for some time.

He was considered something of a curiosity right from the start: a black,

Jewish, roller-skating cop chosen to lead an overwhelmingly white Southern police force in a tradition-bound city on the cusp of great change.

Former City Council member Yon ne Brown said Greenberg left a positive mark on Charleston for both his unique style and for his effort to moderate the force.

Please see **GREENBERG**, Page A4



Greenberg



Gallery
For more photos, go to postandcourier.com/gallery.



Chance of rain.
High 77, Low 67.
Complete 5-day
forecast: B6

Bridge: E21
Binaries: E2
Classified: D1
Comics: 12B-29
Cousinhood: B4, E2
Editorials: A10
Local news: A2
Movies: E10

Obituary: B4
Sports: E1
Weekend: E10
The South: B1

Charleston
Deals today

DeRoma's Pizzeria
Pay \$8 to spend \$10
See A2

WHERE'S THE PRESSURE?: USC's lack of sacks troubling, C1

The State

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 | THESTATE.COM



THE RISE OF THE SUPERHEROES

Mere mortals bring legends to life in Marvel show at Colonial Life Arena. **Page D1**



KENNY PICKIN' AND PICKIN'

Kenny Chesney will be ESPN College GameDay's guest picker Saturday in Columbia, and will sing a little as well. **Page C4**

Clemson halts some fraternity activities

Student's death isn't what spurred ban for new members, officials say



By HARRISON CAHILL
hcahill@thestate.com

CLEMSON — Two days after the tragic death of a 19-year-old whose body was found Monday in Lake Hart-

TRAFFIC STOP SHOOTING

Ex-trooper faces felony charge

Dasheam video shows traffic stop for seat belt violation, subsequent shooting

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

A former S.C. Highway Patrol trooper who stopped a man for an alleged seat belt violation in Columbia and then shot him — without provocation, prosecutors say — was arrested Wednesday and charged with assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature.

Former Lance Cpl. Sean Groubert, 31, who was fired from the Highway Patrol after the shooting incident, now

faces 20 years in prison if convicted of wrongfully shooting the driver, Levar Jones, 35.

Groubert was booked Wednesday at Richland County's Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. He was fired from the patrol last Friday.

Wednesday night, in a hearing at the jail, Magistrate Ethel Brewer set Groubert's bond at \$75,000. He was released on bond after the hearing.

Groubert's lawyer, former 5th Circuit Solicitor Barney Giese, said his client — a 2007 S.C. Trooper of the Year — is innocent and intends to contest the charges.

"We believe the shooting was justified. We look forward to

SEE SHOOTING PAGE A9



Groubert

AT THESTATE.COM
Watch the video of the traffic stop and shooting and see the arrest warrant.

NEAR-TRAGEDY

"That's when I cried. Because God is just so good."

Lavangela McGibbon,
on learning her son was OK



Ridge View football player Malachi McGibbon, 14, is comforted Wednesday by his mother, Lavangela McGibbon, at Palmetto Health Children's Hospital.

'THE MIRACLE OF MALACHI'

Ridge View football player survives hit-and-run accident

By AKILAH IMANI NELSON
anelson@thestate.com

Lavangela McGibbon calls this story "The Miracle of Malachi."

It started with an uneasy feeling on Monday evening. At a family friend's house with her daughter, McGibbon realized that her 14-year-old son, Malachi McGibbon, had not called to ask for a ride home from football

practice at Ridge View High.

The school was less than half a mile from the family's apartment in The Heritage, and sometimes, when he was not too tired from practice, he would make the short walk. But he would usually call when he got home.

So McGibbon headed home early.

An ambulance flashed past her on Hard Scrabble Road and, she

said, "I just knew that was my son."

When she pulled up to the ambulance on the side of the road, her intuition was confirmed.

"I heard someone say, 'His name is Malachi,' and I just fell down," McGibbon said.

Malachi was coming to, asking for his mom, and she was there.

SEE ACCIDENT PAGE A8

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, September 25, 2014

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Coaches reply to hazing lawsuit

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

The lawsuit filed by a former Clemson University soccer player and Aiken High School graduate who alleges she was seriously injured during a hazing ritual has been transferred to federal court, according to court documents.

Notice of Removal filed by Clemson soccer instructors in District Court

Attorneys for three Clemson soccer coaches filed a Notice of Removal last week in U.S. District Court in

Anderson, South Carolina, which stated that the case was removed from circuit court to federal court because

it "raises allegations arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States."

The attorneys also filed an answer to the complaint by Haley Ellen Hunt, Hunt, an Aiken High School graduate, is suing head women's soccer coach Eddie Radwanski, former Athletic Director Terry Don Phillips, two team assistants and multiple teammates.

Please see **HAZING**, Page 5A

INSIDE TODAY



Tony Stewart won't face charges in deadly crash
Sports, 1B



Arts center offers wine, art courses
Living on the Go, 1C



Realtors collect canned goods for local charity
Local News, 2A

OriginaNails salon offers pampering, convenience
Local News, 2A

AREA DEATHS

Ernest James Harley, Williston
Charles Edgar "Chuck" Woodard II, Aiken
Edna Altman Lyon, Windsor
Erin Nicole Nappier, Graniteville
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

'I'm making up for the lazy'

Area women to participate in Tennessee Ironman race

BY ROB NOVIT
novit@aikenstandard.com

Donna Harding never thought she would run a marathon and has completed two of them.

Just three years ago, Candace Zipf, an avid runner, was worried — not just about swimming competitively, but whether she could swim at all. The women will leave today for Chattanooga, Tennessee, for an Ironman event — a 2.4 mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon.

"I've been planning this for a year," said Harding, 40. "Everybody thinks I'm nuts."

She hopes to complete the seemingly endless race in 14 to 15 hours.

The Ironman Chattanooga race will be the second Ironman event for Zipf, 32. She's going to try to break her previous performance of 12:54.

"I signed up for this one Sept. 2 (2013) before I even tried the first one," Zipf said cheerfully.

The race website describes the event as starting on the Tennessee River with an expected water temperature in the mid-70s. The bike course will include 90 miles in north Georgia; the participants can expect 3,400 feet of climbing.

During the run, the men and women will travel a course that continues through downtown Chattanooga. The total elevation gain for the final part of the race will be about 700 feet, the website indicated.

Harding and Zipf have practiced together for several months, but didn't realize they work about a mile apart in Aiken. Zipf, an Aiken resident, is a project manager at H.G. Reynolds Co. Evans resident Harding is a teacher at the Center for Innovative Learning at Pinecrest — a second career for her.

Harding has been running for the past 15 years, happy with just the exercise for most of that period. She received her first medal at a 10,000-meter run, and that whetted her interest. Over time, she moved up to a half-marathon.

"I said I'd never do a marathon, and now I've done two, the last one at Kiawah Island in 2011," Harding said.



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Candace Zipf, left, and Donna Harding remain surprised by their own obsessive determination to challenge themselves athletically. Both are traveling to Chattanooga today to participate in an Ironman race — swimming, biking and running — a full day that prompts Harding to admit she's "nuts."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Candace Zipf will participate in the Ironman Chattanooga race on Sunday.

Three years ago, she wanted to try a triathlon, but she had her own is-

suues. Harding didn't like the bike and didn't ride one again for two years.

Now she's back.

"I've been planning for this, training for almost a year with the swimming and biking and running," she said. "It's consuming all my free time."

Zipf joined the cheerleading squad at South Aiken High School when she was younger.

She started working at Reynolds at 16 and returned after graduating from Clemson University. "I've never had another job."

She readily admits she was not very active after high school until she got started at a boot camp — working out with circuit training designed for women. That experience led to a 5K race and then the Cooper River Bridge Run of 6.2 miles. Soon, Zipf kept escalating the distances.

Accepting the challenge of keeping up with her boyfriend, Chad Kimbrell, Zipf learned to swim and also started doing smaller triathlons. In 2012, they completed a half-marathon at the Savannah Rock and Roll event. An Ironman event was in Florida that day, and off they went so they could register there for a future event. Kimbrell is joining Zipf this weekend, but only as a fan.

Please see **IRONMAN**, Page 5A

Enterovirus D68 confirmed in S.C.

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

An outbreak that can cause se-

and Prevention's laboratory recently confirmed the presence of enterovirus D68 in specimens taken from two residents in the state.

DHEC, reported the Centers for Disease Control's results in a press release issued Tuesday. The Centers for Disease Control added

Since mid-August, the Centers for Disease Control's lab has confirmed respiratory illness caused by enterovirus D68 in 220 people

CLEMSON SUSPENDS ALL FRATERNITY ACTIVITIES

President Jim Clements joins students in impromptu vigil for Tucker Hips C1

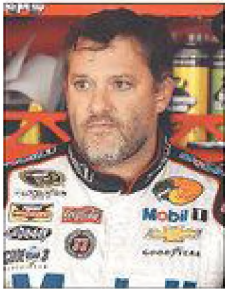


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5 Things to read today



Stewart cleared

A Ontario County, N.Y., grand jury decided against bringing criminal charges against NASCAR driver Tony Stewart for the death of 20-year-old sprint car driver Kevin Ward Jr. during an Aug. 9 race. **PAGE A3**

The talk of Clemson

The conversation regarding Clemson freshman quarterback Deshaun Watson as the future of the program started long before he even arrived on campus, and talk has heated up considerably since the start of the season. **PAGE B1**

Enterovirus arrives

Two Upstate residents have tested positive for a respiratory infection that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is monitoring. Both patients are infected with an enterovirus strain known as EV-D68. **PAGE C1**

Middle class costs

Legions of middle-class families are straining under the weight of accelerating costs for a range of essential services from day care to health care. Compounding the pain is that average pay for Americans is barely topping inflation. **PAGE C5**

Inman festival

Things are going to get crowded in downtown Inman this weekend, as thousands of visitors come to visit the small town's Harvest Day Festival, escape

"THERE CAN BE NO REASONING, NO NEGOTIATION, WITH THIS BRAND OF EVIL."

Obama urges UN to help with ISIS



JASON DECROW/AP
President Barack Obama addresses a meeting of the U.N. Security Council Wednesday at the U.N. headquarters.

France confirms Algerian extremists allied with ISIS beheaded a French citizen on video

By EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS—Confronted by the growing threat of Middle East militants, President Barack Obama implored world leaders at the United Nations on Wednesday to rally behind his expanding military campaign to stamp out the violent Islamic State group and its "network of death."

"There can be no reasoning, no negotiation, with this brand of evil,"

Obama told the General Assembly. In a striking shift for a president who has been reluctant to take military action in the past, Obama declared that force is the only language the militants understand. He warned those who have joined their cause to "leave the battlefield while they can."

The widening war against the Islamic State was just one in a cascade of crises that confronted the presidents, prime ministers

and monarchs at the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. Also vying for attention was Russia's continued provocations in Ukraine, a deadly Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and the plight of civilians caught in conflicts around the world.

"Not since the end of the Second World War have there been so many refugees, displaced people and asylum seekers," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said as he opened Wednesday's session.

In a rare move, Obama also

◆ SEE OBAMA PAGE A5

UPWARD STAR CENTER GRAND OPENING



ALEX C. HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

The indoor basketball and volleyball courts at Upward Sports' Star Center is shown. The sports complex located off Interstate 85 on Warren H. Abernathy Highway will open on Saturday.

Athletic mission kicks off

By TREVOR ANDERSON
trevor.anderson@shj.com

Upward Sports hopes to carry its mission onward in a major way.

The Spartanburg-based Christian youth athletics provider will host a free public celebration at 10 a.m. Saturday to mark the

\$20M sports complex

The Upward Sports' Star Center will open Saturday. The sports complex is off Interstate 85 on Warren H. Abernathy Highway.



courts, four batting cages, rock climbing wall, running track, strength and fitness area, seven conference rooms, a café, a retail store and more.

It also has four outdoor sand volleyball courts, four grass soccer fields and two artificial turf soccer fields with lights.

Shortage of poll managers a concern

Voters might see longer wait times, more confusion

By FELICIA KITZMILLER
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

Spartanburg County is likely to be short on poll managers for the November election, which could lead to longer wait times and more confusion at polling places.

State law prescribes a ratio of three poll managers for every 500 voters, where possible, said Henry Laye, director of voter registration and elections. In Spartanburg County, this means there should be about 960 poll managers.

"We will be lucky to get 600," Laye said.

The number of poll managers has not reached ideal proportions during his tenure, but like other counties in the state, Laye said he is struggling to recruit new poll managers to replace aging volunteers who have been doing the job for many years. Laye said he's unsure why participation has dropped off, but hypothesized it could be the result of more families with two working parents, and people taking second jobs or working more hours.

Weather

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

HUNTING FOR EMPLOYMENT



MADDY JONES/INDEX JOURNAL

Job seeker David Thomasson speaks about his qualifications to co-owner of C and C Metal Recycling Connie Redd on Wednesday at the Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair at Greenwood Mall.

Greenwood Mall filled with jobs, workshops

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

The Upper Savannah Job Fair comes with instructions. That's one of the many helpful services offered at an event that brought more than 70 vendors with 68 employers offering 1,000 jobs to Greenwood Mall on Wednesday morning.

"What I have seen is a good workshop for those without jobs," said Emma Greene, Self Regional Health-care retiree, full-time grandmother and job fair volunteer. "I feel like it's well organized and well attended."

Organized by the Upper Savannah Workforce System, which includes the Upper Savannah Council of Governments Workforce Development Division, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Pied-

mont Technical College, GLEAMNS Human Resources Commission and area employers, the job fair is organized twice a year, and brings together employers and those who are unemployed, searching for a new career or seeking part-time work.

"It's always exciting for me to work the job fair," said Billy Morgan, SC Works operations manager for Upper Savannah Council of Governments. "It's really a rewarding job when you're helping someone, both employers and job seekers, find an employee or job."

Workshops took place during the event to assist job seekers with a variety of issues they will face in their job search.

The first workshop presented at the beginning of the event instructed attendees on how to work a job fair and approach potential employers. The

See HUNTING, page 4A



Christopher Shiflet fills out applications for part-time work Wednesday afternoon at the Upper Savannah Regional Job Fair.

■ NEW INITIATIVE RELEASED

Fight the fat

SC officials issue plan to battle obesity problem

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — In South Carolina, where obesity among young people ranks second in the nation, children can expect to live shorter lives than their parents if current obesity rates continue to plague the state, health officials said Wednesday as they introduced their new plan to attack the problem.

"Today, we move from talk to coordinated action," said Catherine Templeton, director of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, announcing a blueprint that pulls together 800 health organizations, business leaders, researchers, nonprofits and volunteers in the effort.

Templeton said obesity is at the core of many ailments such as high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes and heart disease. It ends up costing the state an estimated \$8.5 billion per year, and such costs are continuing to rise, she said in a written statement.



CATHERINE TEMPLETON

See FAT, page 4A

BY THE NUMBERS

A breakdown of the obesity problem and the plan to help fix it — numerically.

■ **\$8.5 BILLION:** How much obesity costs state taxpayers each year in medical costs.

■ **800:** Number of agencies involved in the latest plan to combat obesity.

■ **21:** Percentage of young people ages 10-17 who are obese in South Carolina, according to a study.

■ **32:** Percent of adults considered obese in state according to the same study.

■ EDUCATION IN SC

New assessments planned this year

By KATE HIRUBY
khiruby@indexjournal.com

With passage of state House bill H3893 comes major changes to the South Carolina education system, particularly in terms of Common Core standards

Testing requirements

■ **Grades 3-8:** A new assessment focusing on English language arts and math.

■ **Grades 4-8:** A new assessment focusing on English language arts and



HIGH SCHOOL GAMEDAY

Turner, Bobcats prepare for showdown with Wren. C1

A WILD CELEBRATION: Upstate celebrates anniversary of Wilderness Act. B1
'NETWORK OF DEATH': Obama urges leaders to help eliminate Islamic State. D1

Clemson halts fraternity activity after death

'After Tucker's death, Suspension comes following reports of 'serious incidents'

it was decided to hit the pause button on social activities and new members for the time being to figure out how to ensure everyone's safety moving forward.'

John Gough
Clemson media relations spokesman

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND AND NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — In the wake of the death of Clemson Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity pledge Tucker Hipps, the university has suspended all of its 24 fraternities' social and new member activities.

Hipps, a sophomore from Piedmont, was

found dead in Lake Hartwell Monday near the S.C. Highway 93 bridge after fraternity members say he did not return from an early morning group run. Oconee County coroner Karl Addis said Hipps died



Hipps

from a head injury consistent with an unsupported fall.

Funeral services for Hipps will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. at Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley.

Meanwhile, Oconee County sheriff Mike Crenshaw said Wednesday the investigation is continuing, although officials do not know what caused Hipps to

fall off the bridge. He said about 30 members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity have been interviewed, along with other students and witnesses.

"All the interviews at this point are consistent in terms of what happened," he said. "We've been able to corroborate those statements with other interviews and other witnesses. We

will continue to work with the fraternity, talk with them and hopefully bring closure to this family. That's our goal. The family deserves to know what happened to their son. We'll continue to do that until we'll be able to provide those answers."

Questions about what exactly caused Hipps

SEE DEATH, PAGE A5

COFFEE with a COP



Local residents Ray and Louise Nix speak with, from left, Lt. Jeremy Chapman, Capt. Ken Washington and public information officer Jimmy Watt of the Oconee County Sheriff's Office at Wednesday's Coffee with a Cop event at Chick-fil-A in Seneca.

JESSICA WILLIAMS | THE JOURNAL

Event provides information in Clemson death case

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — While many of those attending Wednesday's Coffee with a Cop event at the Seneca Chick-fil-A were there to talk to Oconee County sheriff Mike Crenshaw and other law enforcement officials about concerns, the event may

have also led to some new information about the death of a Clemson student this week.

Crenshaw said one of the residents at the meeting told him he saw a group of boys running from the Esso Club toward the S.C. Highway 93 bridge around 5:30 a.m. Monday. The case remains under investigation, and Crenshaw

has been asking for those who saw the members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity running Monday morning to come forward and tell what they saw. Tucker Hipps, 19, was found dead in the water, apparently after a fall from the bridge. Sheriff's office personnel

SEE COFFEE, PAGE A5

SALES TAX REFERENDUM

November 2014

Capital sales tax debate to heat up

BY CARLOS CALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — With 40 days left before the Nov. 4 general election, the debate on a capital sales tax referendum in Oconee County is about to heat up.

At a 6 p.m. meeting of the Seneca Tea Party tonight at Gigmillist Community Center, a member of Limited Government for Oconee County is on the agenda to explain why she is against the proposed sales tax increase.

On Friday, the Oconee County Chamber of Commerce is presenting an event at the Walhalla Civic Auditorium that begins at 9 a.m. to give voters the chance "to learn about the projects" before they vote in November.

Chamber executive director Jillian Lusk said

Wednesday the organization supports approval of the capital sales tax



Lusk

proposal because of the economic development impact it would have on the county. However, she said the event Friday will be "unbiased" and is intended to provide information about the referendum and the projects that would be funded.

Lusk said she will facilitate the program and will ask questions of each project representative.

"We will have 15 minutes at the end, if time allows, for the public to ask questions," Lusk said.

Any questions not fully

SEE TAX, PAGE A5

County vets zoning complaints process

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — As part of reviewing its land use and zoning policies, Oconee County is also tak-

ing 38 of the county's code of ordinances regarding how those complaints are handled.

Chapter 32 covers unified performance standards — with regula-

tor who would be specially damaged by the violation may file a written complaint."

Councilman Paul Corbett said he believes the language is too restrictive.

'You should know your accuser. This

Oconee absentee voting opens Oct. 1

THE JOURNAL STAFF

WALHALLA — Absentee voting for the Nov. 4 general election will open Oct. 1 in Oconee County.

The voting will remain open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday until

The last day to register to vote is Oct. 4.

Unlike some surrounding states, South Carolina does not have "no-excuse early voting," which means in order to vote by absentee ballot, voters must meet one of the qualifying reasons.



CLAY POT MUSIC Top of the Pot competition set for Saturday. **Page 1B**

Morning News

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Mostly cloudy & warmer.
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DETAILS 2A

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Darlington Raceway prepares for races of a different kind

Marathon and related races will take place Friday and Saturday

BY VEASEY CONWAY
Morning News
vconway@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Darlington is gearing up for a fleet of weekend races, but notably absent are the cars.

This weekend, Darlington Raceway is hosting its second annual marathon and related running races, which begin and end at the famed racetrack and wind their way through the city.

"It might not be race cars, but

I can tell you that running is just as impressive," said the raceway's president, Chip Wile.

The races begin at 7 p.m. Friday with a 5K and a 1.3660 mile race, the latter of which is a single lap around the racetrack. A marathon, half-marathon and marathon relay take place Saturday starting at 7 a.m.

Registration, which ends soon, can be done on the race's website, darlingtonmarathon.com. Paper registrations are also available.

Wile encouraged spectators to come out for the race as well. Many spectators will just have to look out their front doors: The marathon course winds through residential neighborhoods, the city's five historic districts and Williamson Park.

"They're running 26 miles, so they need all the encouragement they can get," Wile said.

Though the raceway hosted a marathon last year, this year is



Runners head down East Billy Farrow Highway with the rising sun during the inaugural Darlington Marathon in Darlington.

See **MARATHON**, Page 4A



The Inn at the Crossroads in Lake City will open next month.

Lake City boutique hotel nears completion

BY DONNA TRACY
Lake City Editor
dtracy@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — The Inn at the Crossroads has maintained a commanding presence on Main Street in the not-so-sleepy little city just 20 miles south of Florence since construction began last year on the new hotel.

A glimpse through one of the oversized windows fronting Main Street suggests the hotel is far from complete, but inside the three-story brick-faced structure, final details are underway. Extensive wood trim nears completion on the main stairway, furniture begins to occupy rooms and floor by floor the building is transforming from the organized clutter of an active construction zone to the serenity of a getaway destination.

According to Steve Moore, project general manager with the management company overseeing current operations, Strand Development Company, everything is expected to be ready to receive guests for their first large group of reservations scheduled for Oct. 17. A grand opening ceremony is planned for the coming holiday season, though a date has yet to be set.

Original plans called for an aggressive construction timetable and an opening date in time for the second year of Art-



Suites in the new 57-room boutique hotel on Main Street, Lake City, occupy the corner of the building and command a view down Main Street.

Fields, held in April in Lake City. Once begun, however, several unexpected factors pushed back construction — more extreme than usual weather including winter storms and high levels of rainfall — and a tentative opening date was set for Sept. 15.

Moore said that when they realized that date would come and pass, the company decided to keep the delivery dates for furniture deliveries and their hiring process in place.

"We didn't delay any deliveries of materials," Moore said. "We didn't delay the interview process and team selection process. So when the construction team is done and they turn it over to the operations side of things, we'll need a period of time to go back here and make it hotel-ready. There's a difference between construction clean and hotel clean."

The front-desk teams and many of

See **HOTEL**, Page 6A

Officials issue obesity blueprint

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — In South Carolina, where obesity among young people ranks second in the nation, children can expect to live shorter lives than their parents if current obesity rates continue to plague the state, health officials said Wednesday as they introduced their new plan to attack the problem.

"Today, we move from talk to coordinated action," said Catherine Templeton, director of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, announcing a blueprint that pulls together 800 health organizations, business leaders, researchers, nonprofits and volunteers in the effort.

Templeton said obesity is at the core of many ailments such as high blood pressure, stroke, diabetes and heart disease. It ends up costing the state an estimated \$8.5 billion per year, and such costs are continuing to rise, she said in a written statement.

The new plan recommends specific actions that can be taken by communities, in schools, at workplaces and by health care providers.

For example, it suggests increasing access to affordable fruits and vegetables by boosting the number of local farmers' markets that accept food stamps. It calls for workplaces to encourage breastfeeding, set up tobacco-free areas and improve access to healthy meals and physical activity.

The plan says health organizations should improve their efforts to diagnose obesity among patients, offer counseling and get them support to combat it. The program also calls for a major focus among schools and child care operations, suggesting they participate in "farm to school" programs that put more fresh fruits and vegetables in children's meals and snacks, and get children to exer-



Templeton

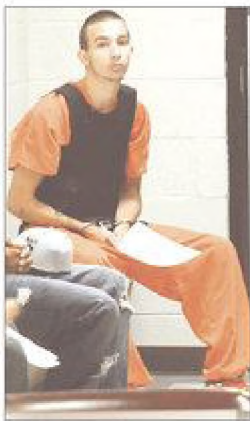
Many questions linger in Clemson student's death

BY RON BARNETT

INSIDE

ry, Oconee County Sheriff Mike

The runners, mostly pledges



LARRY HARRY/T&D
Jeffrey Keezel, 21, was charged in the shooting death of 30-year-old Ricardo Sprinkle. Find video from Wednesday's court hearing at TheTandD.com.

Detective: Shooting victim was executed

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

A St. Matthews man charged with what authorities called a "senseless" murder was denied bond in his first court appearance.

Facing charges of murder, armed robbery and possession of a weapon during a crime, Jeffrey Keezel said nothing during Wednesday's hearing.

Orangeburg City Judge Barney Houser presented the 21-year-old with his rights but said the nature of the crimes warrants denying bond.

Ricardo "Sisco" Sprinkle was found lifeless in his vehicle on Sept. 17. An autopsy showed he had been shot once in the face.

Prior to Houser's decision, lead investigator Detective Kevin Dukes told the court Keezel has an extensive criminal history that involves burglaries and numerous charges of breaking into automobiles.

"This was a senseless and heinous act," Dukes said.

Along with police, Sprinkle's mother, Margaret Austin, asked the court to deny bond for Keezel. Austin said she now has three grandchildren without a father.

"My heart is heavy. The only thing I want to know is why Jeffrey killed my son," she said. "All I have is pictures and memories."

Keezel was out on bond for a forgery charge in Calhoun County at the time of his arrest Tuesday. He was also on probation from a 2012 sentencing for breaking into cars.

In 2011, Orangeburg police charged him with nearly 20 counts of breaking into cars at the same time he was facing two counts of third-degree burglary in Calhoun County.

While Sprinkle was being laid to rest Monday, the detectives working the case secured a key piece of evidence in Calhoun County.

Police have not said publicly what that evidence was, but not long after St. Matthews police met with investigators in Orangeburg and warrants were obtained against Keezel.

After a surveillance operation on a Hatfield Hill Road residence, police followed Keezel and a relative as they drove into Orangeburg on Tuesday. On their way, they went past the

See VICTIM, A3

St. Matthews native returns to TV Viola Davis hits the small screen tonight in new show

By KIMBERLEY N. DAVIS
T&D Staff Writer

Related coverage, A6

Viola Davis, the two-time Academy Award nominee, is making the transition from the big screen back to the small screen today.

The St. Matthews native is the leading lady in Shonda Rhimes' new ABC series "How to Get Away With Murder." The first episode airs to-

night at 10 p.m.

Davis will star as Annalise Keating, a law professor who also happens to represent hardened criminals. Her best students will get jobs at her law firm.

See DAVIS, A3



Viola Davis

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

The Times and Democrat

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LARRY HARRY/T&D
Cox Industries President and CEO Mikee Johnson talks about workforce development at the Orangeburg County grassroots meeting hosted by the S.C. Chamber of Commerce, Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce and the Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce Wednesday.

Building business

Downtown, workforce development topics at chamber meeting

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Revitalizing downtown business districts to help spawn economic development was among the local priorities mentioned Wednesday morning at the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce's Orangeburg County grassroots meeting.

"If rural areas are going to make it, we need the downtown to make it," Cox Industries President and CEO Mikee Johnson said. He is also chairman of the state Workforce Investment Board.

The meeting brought together business and economic development leaders at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. The meetings are the first step in creating the state chamber's Competitiveness Agenda, its annual list of legislative priorities.

Johnson said the expense of renovating buildings makes revitalization difficult.

For example, he purchased the former 1058 Russell Street building for about \$16,000 and put about \$500,000 into renovating it. Today, the building is the home of Rosalia's Mexican

Restaurant.

"A half million invested in an old building in downtown probably won't make you a bunch of money," he said. "Every little town in all these little counties is slum full of these issues. Coming up with solution to that is not easy."

He is also the owner of the former Silly Building downtown. The roof of the building collapsed in 2012. Johnson has discussed swapping the property with the city of Orangeburg in a move that would bring the Cox headquarters downtown.

Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce President Dede Cook said the chamber and the Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association have conducted a market analysis of the city and will soon have an idea of what businesses to attract to Orangeburg.

"I think it can happen," Cook said. "I just think it will take some real effort and an understanding that downtowns will never be what they used to be."

Orangeburg Parks and Recreation Director Shaniqua Simmons said Orangeburg needs to call itself a college town and improve the city's

assets.

"How do we keep our employers happy and how do we get on them to say, 'Hey, I am going to entertain having a business in Orangeburg?'" she said.

Simmons said the city has a great location and has one of only three municipal golf courses in the state.

"Everyone knows about the Rose Garden, ... but we need to capitalize on other leisure activities within the Rose Garden. In the 25 to 35 age group, they don't want to look at roses," Simmons said.

Simmons suggested more events geared toward young people.

Earlsville Mayor Jefferson Johnson said all the suggestions and requests put forth will come to naught without an internal assessment.

"Nobody wants to change," Johnson said, explaining many individuals he has come into contact with want to remain in their granddaddy's day. "There needs to be a mindset change."

Besides downtown revitalization, concerns

See BUSINESS, A3

Brian Symmes

Cell: (803) 673-9437

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304