

From: Godfrey, Rob
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 9:47 AM
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Citizens Advisory Board hears more on German fuel • 2A

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, January 27, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 150, No. 27 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

Haley greenlights MOX suit

Attorney general asked to sue DOE over unpaid fines



Haley



Moriz

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley is looking to sue the U.S. Department of Energy because the agency has failed to acknowl-

edge her attempt to levy \$1 million a day for a missed deadline at the Savannah River Site's MOX facility.

Haley sent a Jan. 26 letter to S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson asking him to "initiate litigation on behalf

of the state of South Carolina against DOE."

Per a 2003 agreement signed by DOE and South Carolina, the federal agency was supposed to either remove 1 metric ton of weapons-grade plutonium from

the state, or process it through the SRS Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility — the facility that is expected to convert 34 metric tons of the plutonium into

Please see **HALEY**, Page 12A



Restaurant of the Week:
Triangle Restaurant
Living on the Go, 1C

Aiken may see GOP candidates before S.C. primary

BY BILL BENGTON
bbengton@aikenstandard.com

Plans are coming together for local voters, in a few weeks, to see and hear from the GOP candidates aiming for the White House, with the support of the Aiken Republican Party.



All of the GOP hopefuls in good standing for the



Sam Erb places a dot on the board beneath what he thinks is Aiken's most popular characteristic. More than 150 residents attended a Visioning Process, a public input forum moderated by The Boudreaux Group.

Vision process helps move Aiken forward

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

When Aiken Mayor Rick Osborn said he wanted the public's input



Residents enjoy low gas prices

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

Travel experts are predicting gas prices will remain lower in the new year than they were in 2015, and Aiken-area residents are enjoying the feeling of relief at the pump.

John Magruder was filling up his Cadillac with no ethanol gas at Enmark on Charleston Highway late Tuesday morning and said he's noticed the recent lower prices. Two years ago, he was paying around \$5 a gallon for the higher grade, he said.

Magruder works as a consultant and said his wife works at the Savannah River Site, and the lower prices have helped the couple with their daily commutes and kept more money in their pockets.

"It helps keep more money in the bank to pay other bills," Magruder said. "There for a while when it was between \$4 and \$5 a gallon, just between my wife and I, we're burning hundreds of dollars a month just getting to work and back and that's hundreds of dollars a month you can't use to pay down other bills."

Penny Johnson, who also filled up at the gas station, called the prices a "win-win" because she can save and travel more.

"I'm putting the money in

The Post and Courier

FOUNDED 1803 • WINNER OF THE 2015 PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Sonic boom shakes up Charleston area

Marine jets on training mission likely reason for the rattling

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
skropp@postandcourier.com

The shake, rattle and roll felt on Charleston's beaches and reaching 20 miles inland probably came from military aircraft like the Marine Corps supersonic jets flying offshore around the same time Tuesday.

"We see the pressure boom,"

said College of Charleston geologist Erin Beutel, referring to measurements taken from a barometer that confirmed a supersonic event originated offshore. The blast wave was made even more intense because there was a layer of warm air over Charleston sitting over a layer of cold air. It created what's called an "atmospheric inversion," which

speeded the wave along, Beutel said. The lunchtime wave jolted windows and shook furniture across a wide section of the Charleston area, reaching Mount Pleasant, Folly Beach, James Island, West Ashley, Goose Creek and Summerville. The U.S. Geological Survey reported it was not an earthquake.

The boom startled workers at the Folly Beach pier. "The entire gift shop shook," said manager Mark Patrick. Nothing was damaged, he said. A spokesman at the National Weather Service said the boom was heard at Charleston International Airport.

Please see **BOOM**, Page A6



LANCE CPL. SARANTHA R. TORRES/USMC/BEAUFORT
Though the source of the loud noise reported Tuesday has not been confirmed, several F/A-18 fighter jets like this one were participating in an exercise off the coast, a Marine Corps spokesman said.

'I choose to look at the bright side'

Triple amputee tells fellow veterans his remarkable comeback story



BRAD NUTT/STAFF

Army veteran and triple amputee Bryan Anderson talks to veterans Tuesday at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. Anderson, a Purple Heart recipient, was severely injured by an IED in Iraq in 2005.

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

Bryan Anderson spent about 12 minutes lying on a hot Baghdad sidewalk before a military helicopter landed to rescue him. It was Oct. 23, 2005, more than

two years after the United States invaded Iraq. During his first tour of duty in Iraq in 2003, Anderson escaped without a scratch. His second tour ended differently — on that hot Baghdad sidewalk — when an improvised explosive de-

vice hit the vehicle Anderson had been driving. "It started off just like any other day," he told a group of veterans at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston on Tuesday.

Please see **ANDERSON**, Page A6

New action on whales not enough, groups say

Right whale habitat designated off S.C.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

Right whales won't really be much more protected off South Carolina waters, even though it's now designated critical habitat.

Federal fisheries managers on Tuesday expanded the habitat for the perilously endangered right whale, a move that includes adding to the winter calving grounds off the state coast as far as 35 miles out. The designation of the waters comes 10 years after the first reports of newborn right whales off South Carolina startled observers. It comes less than a month after a young right whale was spotted off Folly Beach, and during a migration season when the whales apparently moved early, with sightings in November off Georgetown and Folly Beach. Conservation groups applauded the designation but said more needs to be done, including protecting the rest of the migration route past mid-Atlantic states.

"Right whales also use over 55,000 miles of marine habitat on the Atlantic Coast of the United States, but a mere fraction of those waters are protected," said Defenders of Wildlife senior staff attorney Jane Davenport.

Right whales are the rarest of the large whales, 40-ton creatures whose curious two-plume breathing spray and lack of a dorsal fin distinguish them from other whales. They are so massive and supple that one boater who has seen them described the moment as heart-stopping.

The whales were all but wiped out by commercial whaling. They have turned the corner toward potential recovery from a low of fewer than 300, thanks to awareness and

Please see **WHALES**, Page A6

Distracting House visitors spur lawmakers into action

Atwater bill creating limited time slots to introduce guests advances to House floor

BY SEANNA ADCOX
sadcov@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Some South Carolina House members are taking



Poll

Do you think limiting introductions of random members at the Statehouse is a

Inside



FOOD

Trip to Paris rekindles love of French comfort food. **D1**

Young adults face choice: Costly policy or steep fine

Obamacare expenses a bitter pill for many struggling financially

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
ralonso@postandcourier.com

their 20s and 30s to take a hard look and see if they can squeeze in coverage to avoid penalties. Many are trying to establish careers or just make progress in a still-bumpy economy.

"There's only so far one can dwindle a ramen-noodle diet," said Christopher Rael of Los Angeles. In his late

Gamecocks hold off feisty Bulldogs for home win, 1B



How Brandon McIlwain can play football and baseball, 1B



WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27 2016

\$1.00

VOL. 125TH, No. 344
STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/THETATENEWS
TWITTER.COM/THETATE

TODAY: CLOUDY, CHANCE OF RAIN HI 54 LO 35
YESTERDAY: HI 68 LO 32 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0"
FORECAST: BC

The State

Jury convicts 2 of running a Midlands gambling ring

BY JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

A federal jury on Tuesday deliberated about one hour, then found two Midlands bookies guilty of running an organized gambling ring whose members included five or more people.

Jack Parker, 74, and Doug Taylor, 63, whom prosecutors



Jack Parker



Doug Taylor

called "long-term, lifetime bookies," were each charged with one federal felony charge of operating an illegal gambling

Federal prosecutor calls on the dead: "How I wish she could have testified"

Two murders in 2012 revealed thriving Midlands sports gambling world

ring. Parker and Taylor admitted to being bookies. But they argued they were not part of a gambling

ring, which by federal definition includes five or more participants. The jury didn't buy their assertions.

Federal Judge Cameron McGowan Currie will sentence the two men several months from now, after probationary officials do a pre-sentencing report. They could receive up to five years in prison and fines.

SEE GAMBLING, 9A

OBITUARY



REMEMBERING A LEGEND

Midlands football coaches praise former Irmo and Spring Valley football coach Joe Turbeville, who passed away Monday, 1B

SC, GEORGIA COASTS AFFECTED

Feds widen right whales' offshore safe zones



FLA. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, NYT

A North Atlantic right whale and calf off Florida

Action expected to make oil, gas exploration more difficult

BY SAMMY FRETWELL
sfretwell@thestate.com

to locate and drill for oil and gas off the South Carolina seashore.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

waters. Parts of north Florida, New England and southern North Carolina also fall under the designation for the first time.

Tuesday's decision doesn't necessarily preclude oil and gas drilling in South Carolina or other states and it won't add

coordinator for NOAA's fisheries division. The critical habitat designation allows the government to more carefully review the proposals to search or drill for fossil fuels that might be buried in the sea floor, federal officials said. If concerns arise, the government could recom-



STATE OF THE CITY COLUMBIA MAYOR ON PAST, FUTURE

Steve Benjamin recalls how the people of Columbia and Richland County rallied after the great floods last October, 3A



PALMETTO THE SPICE

A PEEK AT 2016 LINEUP

CLEMSON FOOTBALL, 1C

LIFESTYLE, 1D



Salmon: A smarter choice

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 27, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



USA TODAY

HUMAN SMUGGLERS USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO LURE MIGRANTS FLEEING SYRIA PAGE 1B

Pickens prepares for legal battle

Conservation group
Upstate Forever joins
coal ash landfill fight

RON BARNETT

RBARNETT@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The conservation group Upstate Forever has joined the fight to keep a company from opening a coal ash landfill in Pickens County, even as the County Council voted to hire an attorney with environmental expertise to try to shut down the plan.

"Please be informed that if you continue your efforts to construct a coal ash landfill, we will take all appropriate action necessary to ensure full compliance with the (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) Coal Ash Rule and with other applicable laws and regulations," Upstate Forever said in a letter to MRR Pickens, LLC.

County Councilman Neil Smith took an even harder line in comments after the council's meeting Monday night.

"We're drawing a line in the dirt. And when it comes down to it, no to coal dust. Period. No to coal dust."

He said a lawsuit is imminent. "Just as soon as our lawyer gets down and looks at everything, I'm sure that's where we're headed," Smith told *The Greenville News*.

The company, a division of Raleigh-based MRR Southern, has not responded to questions from *The News* since last month, when it was learned that the company had received approval from the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to install a liner in its proposed landfill that would allow for disposal of coal ash. An attorney for the company did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Upstate Forever letter and County Council's action.

Coal ash contains toxic substances such as lead and arsenic, but the EPA in December 2014 deemed that coal ash from power plants can be treated as non-hazardous industrial waste rather than as a hazardous material.

DHEC views the type of coal ash planned for the proposed landfill in



Schools' weather policy may shift

Excused absences given to those in select areas

NATHANIEL CARY
STAFF WRITER

After the most recent winter storm paralyzed parts of northern Greenville County beneath a sheet of snow and ice that crews were still working to clear five days later, Greenville County Schools may shift how it approaches weather events that impact specific regions of the state's most expansive school district.

In a diversion from its normal protocol on weather-related decisions, Greenville decided it would give excused absences on Tuesday to students and teachers who didn't feel safe driving to 10 schools in the north-

ern part of the county.

The school district previously took an "all or nothing" approach to its weather decisions. Tuesday was the first time district officials chose to treat specific schools differently due to road conditions, said Oby Lyles, school district spokesman.

It may not be the last.

The district used Tuesday's decision as a test to pilot a new approach of school-specific decisions, Lyles said. District officials plan to hold follow-up meetings to evaluate the decision, but may take a similar approach in the future, he said.

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 8A

LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Ice and slush from the recent winter storm still cover Lake Clingman in Greenville on Tuesday.

See **COAL ASH**, Page 8A



GHS boys have
rough day on court
Sports 1B

'Godfather' actor
Abe Vigoda dies
Obituaries 4A



INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 97, NO. 315

indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Tax credit could trip up SC road debate

By JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The Senate Finance Committee sought consensus Tuesday on how to get more money for South Carolina roads and cut taxes. But the meeting showed where arguments might arise when the proposals hit the Senate floor.

The latest compromise, worked on by four

Democrats and four Republicans behind closed doors, would raise the gas tax by 12 cents over three years and a number of other fees to raise an additional \$665 million for roads when fully implemented in three years.

In exchange, the bill provides nearly \$400 million in tax relief, much of it coming out of income taxes with the goal to offset the extra money paid for the gas tax.

The state Department of Transportation

said it needs \$1.2 billion to bring South Carolina roads into good condition. But the agency suggested it could make improvements with less money. Business leaders and drivers tired of crumbling roads and bridges have made extra highway money a priority.

But that goal could get bogged down in the details. One tax credit in particular perked

See CREDIT, page 4A

By the numbers

- **12:** The amount, in cents, the state's gas tax would be raised in the proposal
- **\$400 million:** The amount of tax relief provided in the roads bill
- **\$1.2 million:** How much money is needed to bring SC roads into good condition
- **\$44 million:** How much would be set aside for the state's poor

PIPE DREAM

CPW replacing
galvanized
lines in older
subdivisions

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works contractors are finishing up the replacement of water lines in a number of older subdivisions in the city.

CPW Water Department director Jeff Chapman said Carolina Tap & Bore Inc. of West Columbia will finish replacing galvanized lines during the next few weeks off Cothran Avenue and Lites Street.

Chapman said the project is part of CPW's capital improvement plan to replace galvanized lines, which were used 30 years ago and are often the origin of complaints about water color from the corrosion of pipes.

"This is an area we had targeted to improve customer service ultimately and improve water quality and capacity," Chapman said.

The area includes Wisewood subdivision, Mathews Mill Village and Glendale Heights, among other areas.

The new pipe will also have greater flow and capacity and will provide fire flow protection to the area.



■ CAPITAL PROJECT TAX

Vetting process

Infrastructure panel
discusses guidelines
for selecting projects

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

In the first series of committee meetings for an anticipated capital project sales tax, infrastructure took a full view Tuesday of how to qualify projects.

The county appointed members to five committees to make recommendations to the capital project sales tax commission, which will draft a prioritized list of projects to be funded by the 1-percent sales tax, also known as a penny tax. The list will then go on November's ballot for a popular vote.

The five committees include economic development, infrastructure, parks and recreation, public safety and quality of life.

The county has been receiving applications since late last month.

In anticipation of the application process closing Friday, infrastructure committee chairman Charlie Herndon, who recently led the civic center committee for the county, proposed the creation of a desirability index and rating system to help vet the projects.

"We use this quite a bit in the con-



TOBY
CHAPPELL

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County's News Leader Since 1893

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2016

WWW.HARTSVILLEMESSENGER.COM

50 CENTS

scnow.com

Coker College and Hartsville collaborate on Homecoming parade

From staff reports

For the first time ever, Coker College and the city of Hartsville have teamed up to put together a public parade as a part of Coker's annual Homecoming celebration. The parade will be held on Saturday, Feb. 6, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

The parade, which is free and open to the public, will begin on Coker's campus in front of the Charles W. and Joan S. Coker Library-Information Technology Center. It will continue through several blocks of downtown Hartsville and end back on Coker's campus. Participants will include several groups from Coker

College, as well as businesses and organizations throughout Hartsville.

"Celebrating Coker College's tradition in a way that is visible to the community demonstrates the collaborative and invested efforts of the city and Coker," said Jessica Cohen, tourism and special events director for

the city of Hartsville and a 2013 Coker College graduate. "As an alum and an employee of the city, I couldn't ask for a more rewarding situation."

Also for the first time this year, Coker's Homecoming celebrations coincide with another longstanding campus tradition, the Coker Olympics of

Winter (also known as C.O.W. Days). C.O.W. Days is a week-long event that is held annually at the beginning of February and includes activities such as a lip sync contest, the Miss Cow Pageant and the Coker Hunk Contest. It ends with the C.O.W.

See PARADE, Page 3A

Watts selected for 2016 NASPA Alice Manicur Symposium

From staff reports

Coker College Dean of Students Whitney Watts has been selected to participate in the 2016 Alice Manicur Symposium.

Sponsored by the NASPA Foundation's Center for Women, the symposium is designed for women at the middle management level considering a move to become vice presidents of student affairs.



Watts

"I am incredibly excited," said Watts. "This professional development experience is a wonderful opportunity to learn about what it takes to be a vice president of student affairs. I am looking forward to learning more about the VPSA role, meeting new colleagues and reflecting on my personal goals. I also hope this experience will give me more knowledge to better serve our students at Coker."

Held Jan. 21-24 in San Antonio, Tex., the symposium is a selective, application-based conference offered every two years. Its purpose is

See WATTS, Page 3A

Attempted murder suspect turns himself in

From staff reports

DARLINGTON - Attempted murder suspect Gregory Benjamin, 30, of Hartsville turned himself into Darlington County Sheriff's deputies Sunday after a warrant was issued for his arrest last Thursday.



Living the Dream



Virginia Sokol, a first grade teacher at St. John's Elementary School, shows off a homemade cake to her students during a celebration on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

DCSD students celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

From staff reports



A stage full of 5K students, joined by a room full of their fellow students and Southside Early Childhood Center faculty, sang songs and performed a skit to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 15.

The school produced the "Living the Dream" program in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Staff and family members also attended the event.

The students read aloud a memorial for King and

GET **\$50** INSTANTLY

WHEN WE FILE
YOUR TAXES.

\$50

Delivered electronically.

1-800-234-1040

Jackson Hewitt
WHERE TAXES ARE LESS TAXING

Minimum tax prep fee of \$150 required. Terms and conditions apply. See JacksonHewitt.com for details.

Morning News

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER
Cooler with rain and drizzle.
High 56, low 37.
DETAILS 2A

WWW.SCNOW.COM

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Defense makes case as helicopter trial continues



Dusan Fridl (left) and Hemming Hemmingsen decided not to testify in their trial against the state. Both men are indicted on felony charges for unlawful entry of an aircraft.

BY JESSICA IMBIBO
Morning News
jimbibo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The trial in a case against two Florence county pilots continued Tuesday with multiple witnesses being questioned from both the state and the defense sides.

The two pilots, Dusan Fridl and Hemming Hemmingsen, were indicted on felony charges in April 2015. The pilots entered and flew a helicopter

without permission from the Florence County Sheriff's Office, which allegedly had ownership of the aircraft at the time of the incident.

Captain Scott Brown was the first witness called to the stand on Tuesday. Brown has been with the FCSO for 22 years and is the captain of the special operation division. Brown also is training to pilot the helicopter in question.

The Lake City Police Department, with the help of Fridl, acquired a

helicopter from the 1033 military surplus program in December 2014. Lake City Administrator Shawn Bell, who was called as a witness for the state, testified saying that the city was having issues coming up with funding and insurance for the aircraft. Because of the lack of insurance on the helicopter, Bell wanted it grounded.

"I was then made aware that the sheriff was interested in getting it (the helicopter)," Bell said during his testimony. "I thought

it was best if they have it and take on that responsibility."

The 1033 program then assigned the LCPD helicopter, now known as Raptor 2, to the FCSO.

Brown said the aircraft was assigned to the FCSO on March 20, and he intended to pick it up from the Lake City Municipal Airport in the next few days.

"My intention was to pick it up on the 23rd of

See **HELICOPTER**, Page 3A

FSD4 has 4 days to improve

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

TIMMONSVILLE — South Carolina State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman said Tuesday evening that Florence School District Four has made progress in clearing up accreditation deficiencies. There are still a couple of areas that have not been completed, and the district will have until Monday to do so.

Spearman said she has met with FSD4 Superintendent Andre Boyd.

"We will have to make a decision at the February state board meeting," Spearman said. "We will be taking a recommendation to the state board whether to release you from denial, to say everything is OK or leave you on probation, or we could determine to recommend to the state board that your accreditation be removed

Habitat home dedicated with love



Mike Mouzon, in a red, white and blue checkered shirt, prays with his sweetheart, Amy Petty, to his right, and her parents, Ray Petty, far left, and Frances Petty, far right, during a dedication to the new home he's moving into that was built by the Greater Florence Habitat for Humanity and largely funded by Wells Fargo.

Local autistic artist, employee at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore receives own home

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News

ning, shortly before a group of friends and supporters received one hug after another.

"My brain went blank," he said. "I felt like I was in a bub-

Rob Godfrey
Office of Governor Nikki Haley
Desk: (803) 734-2028 | Mobile: (803) 429-6068