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To:
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The Post and Courier

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Monday, April 25, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Lower standards or a level playing field?

S.C.'s shift to 10-point grading this fall to have huge impact

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

Starting this fall, South Carolina public high school students will need to score a bare minimum of 60 to earn a D in a class — down from 70 in the current school year.

Depending who you ask, it's either good news for student athletes and college scholarship seekers, or it's a sad day for academic standards.

State Education Superintendent Molly Spearman has said the statewide shift

from a 7-point to a 10-point grading scale, which also will change the "A" grade range from 93-100 to 90-100, is an attempt to "level the playing field." She said Palmetto State students are at a disadvantage as they vie for athletic and academic scholarships with students from neighboring North Carolina and Georgia, which have used a 10-point scale for years.

"It's not about watering down grades," she said in a March meeting of the S.C. Athletic Administrators Association. Skeptical eyebrows shot up around the state.

To Larry Kobrovsky, an attorney and former member of the Charleston County and state school boards, the new scale is part of a broader devaluing of high school diplomas.

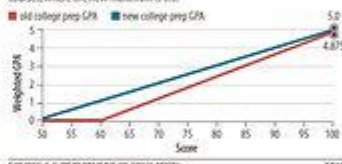
"In a year or two you'll be hearing about increased graduation and pass rates," Kobrovsky said. "You always hear about the dumbing down of education, and this is it in real time."

The lowest performing students, those hovering at or below the threshold for fail-

Please see **GRADING**, Page A4

Low scores, big changes

Students who are currently struggling or failing in college preparatory classes will see the biggest boost in grade-point average this fall. The same will be true in Honors classes, where the new minimum GPA is 5.5, and AP/IB and dual-credit courses, where the new maximum is 6.0.



'Too many deaths'

Leaders, survivors urge gun-law reform at Emanuel event



The Rev. Dr. Betty Deas Clark addresses state and community leaders, pastors and survivors of gun violence Sunday at Emanuel AME Church during a push for gun-law reform in South Carolina.

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON
and JENNIFER KERRY HAWES
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jhawes@postandcourier.com

Tamika Myers stood up front at Emanuel AME Church, where a gunman massacred nine people last summer, holding a giant poster of a smiling 21-year-old.

Myers had talked to that smiling young woman, her daughter, just 15 minutes before the birthday girl was gunned down trying to escape rival gang members who opened fire

at a nightclub in St. George. Myers' daughter died almost two years to the day before a white racist walked into Emanuel and began shooting people with a gun that had an FBI background check been completed in time, he shouldn't have been able to purchase.

Sixteen shots rang out as Myers' daughter tried to escape. "This isn't Iraq!" Myers told those gathered at Emanuel AME on Sunday. The roughly 360 people on hand, many of whom rode buses to the event from across the state, understood her outrage. State and community leaders, along with survivors of gun violence, made a strong call to action for gun-law reform Sunday at Emanuel AME Church.

Before her sat the parents of Walter Scott, a motorist who fled from a traffic stop last year.

Please see **REFORM**, Page A4

PTSD bill to benefit police is held up

Lawmaker opposes workers' comp plan for first responders

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Michael Ackerman said he would've had to quit his job as a Charleston County sheriff's deputy after seeing his partner murdered — and then killing the man who did it — if he hadn't gotten psychiatric help. That was two years ago, during a shootout at a West Ashley apartment. But Ackerman was only eligible for medical help under state workers' compensation laws because he, too, was shot in the attack. The state doesn't consider the death and despair first responders often witness to be "unusual" or "extraordinary" circumstances in that line of work.

So he hired an attorney to argue his case. "I went almost 11 years in my career and I never had to shoot anyone," Ackerman said. "In a split second I saw my partner murdered. I was shot myself, and I had to take the life of the suspect who did the shooting."

Ackerman and other first responders began lobbying South Carolina lawmakers to ease that burden, but

Please see **BILL**, Page A4

9/11 papers could show Saudi links

BY DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration likely will soon release at least part of a 28-page secret chapter from a congressional inquiry into 9/11 that may shed light on possible Saudi connections to the attackers.

The documents, kept in a secure room in the basement of the Capitol, contain information from the joint congressional inquiry into "specific sources of foreign support for some of the Sept. 11 hijackers while they were in the United States."

Bob Graham, who was co-chairman of that bipartisan panel, and others said the documents point suspicion at the Saudis. The former Democratic senator from Florida said an administration official told him that

Please see **PAPERS**, Page A5

Party fractures run deep ahead of Northeast contests

BY STEVE PEOPLES
and KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump surged Sunday toward another round of pivotal presidential primaries as their party leaders faced new questions about internal divisions that could complicate their nominees' general election chances. With less than 48 hours before vot-

Inside

Churches a safe zone for Clinton, A6
Trump finds Muslim support, A6

ing begins across five Northeastern states, GOP front-runner Donald Trump looked to Tuesday's contests, where he's poised to do well, and to a foreign policy speech later in the week.

Please see **PARTY**, Page A5



Inside

SPORTS

CSJ long jumper glad he went back to track, C1

SPORTS

Batting record set as USC sweeps Missouri, C1

LOCAL

Cheetah conservator makes stop in Charleston, A2



Sunny.
High 81, Low 61.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

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

Charleston Deals today

Port City Moped
\$48 for Full Day 2 Seater Scooter
rental (valued at \$75).
See A2

GAMECOCKS BASEBALL

GENE CONE'S BIG DAY

Outfielder breaks school record for consecutive games with a hit as USC sweeps Missouri 1B



MORE BASEBALL NEWS

Fireflies fall at Greenville, while the Braves drop fifth straight game, this one to the Mets, 4B



MONDAY APRIL 25 2016

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TODAY: MOSTLY SUNNY HI 82 LO 60
YESTERDAY: HI 81 LO 53 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.)
FORECAST, 8C

The State

LEXINGTON COUNTY CRIME PREVENTION

'More boots on the streets'



GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN: gflanagan@thestate.com
Sheriff Jay Koon, right, talks with Capt. Bill Galardi at the Lexington County Sheriff's Department.

BY TIM FLACH
tflach@thestate.com

Lexington County deputies are no longer taking to the air to hunt fugitives, a change aimed at improving crime prevention on the ground.

Sheriff Jay Koon is grounding the helicopter as one of a series of steps to add deputies who will keep an eye on neighborhoods more often as part of an effort to reduce burglaries and thefts across the 758-square-mile county.

It's one of the changes in county

Sheriff Jay Koon putting more patrols in neighborhoods to avert break-ins, thefts

Still needed: More staff at the county jail, even better cooperation with local police

law enforcement that Koon is making since taking charge a year ago, planning to rely on State Law Enforcement Division aircraft as necessary.

Other changes coming include turning over transport of inmates

for health care outside the Midlands to security officers at Lexington Medical Center and getting schools to chip in more for classroom security.

His call to explore private security at the County Judicial Center to free up more deputies for patrol is on hold, waiting until a new clerk of court — the official overseeing those courtrooms — is elected this fall.

The changes free up an estimated \$700,000, enough to add five deputies or a dozen guards at an

SEE KOON, 7A

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

HIS NEW MISSION: VALOR AND VALUES



Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris (left) talks with Navy veteran Jim Null outside Liberty Tap Room.

PHOTOS BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN: gflanagan@thestate.com

'Somebody is always standing up for them to make sure they're safe'

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN
gflanagan@thestate.com

The journey that brought former Green Beret Melvin Morris to Columbia Southern was



"A lot of veterans are still suffering from PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) from Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan," Morris said.

Among those who came out to meet Morris on Sunday was Command Sgt. Maj. Lamont



PALMETTO VOICES

HUNGRY IN SOUTH CAROLINA?

Sue Berkowitz warns that the state's refusal to seek a federal waiver will leave thousands hungry, starting in July. 1C



NASCAR

EDWARDS WINS AGAIN

Carl Edwards nudges teammate Kyle Busch out of the way to win at Richmond International Raceway, his second win in as many weeks. 1B



SPORTS PITCHERS STRUGGLE



METRO Rebuild gets help after theft

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,
APRIL 25, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY KOCH SAYS IT'S POSSIBLE CLINTON WOULD MAKE A BETTER PRESIDENT PAGE 1B

YMCA to sow a children's garden

Natural amphitheater near
completion near Reedy

ERIC CONNOR

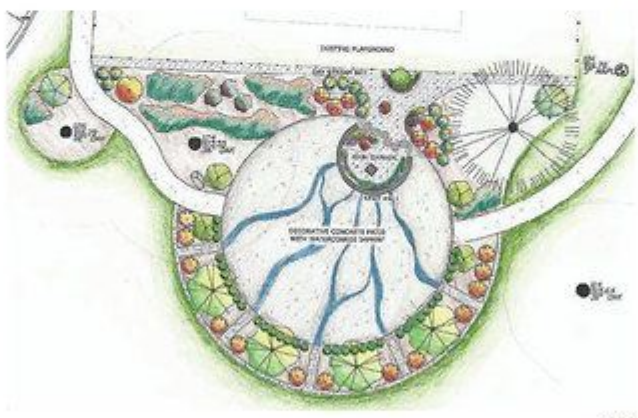
CONNOR@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The YMCA's main campus downtown is embarking on a transformation of its signature property that is drawing attention along the Reedy River and Swamp Rabbit Trail — chiefly in the form of a natural amphitheater, nearly complete, along the river.

The change is part of an overall master plan the YMCA formulated more than a year ago, designed to beautify and put to use a large expanse of open land and do it in a way that is environmentally conscious.

The work by the river is on the back side of the property off Cleveland Street. Meanwhile, the front remains essentially undeveloped dirt.

However, that also will change soon as the Y prepares a new project inspired



Overhead rendering of the Carol E. Clement Children's Garden & Playground at the Cleveland Street YMCA.

by the life of a beloved, longtime member and philanthropist.

Work on the Carol E. Clement Children's Garden & Playground will begin soon as the Y plans to hold a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday honoring the life of one of the organization's most devoted members.

In March 2015, Carol E. Collier Clement passed away at age 59 following a four-year battle with cancer.

For more than two decades, Clement served not only as a board member but worked both behind the scenes to help those in need and to take the lead on capital projects.

For most of every week, Clement would be at the Y. After her death, friends planted a Japanese maple in her honor and discussion soon turned to honoring her with the development of the children's garden, which will be seen from not only the street as an entrance but also through the window of one of her

See YMCA, Page 5A

Special first pitches



Greenville Police Officer Allen Jacobs' two sons — Michael, 5, and Dillon, 6 — relax in the dugout after throwing out the first pitches at the Greenville Drive baseball game at Fluor Field on Sunday. J.T. Watkins and Tate Matheny of the Drive caught the first pitches and spent time with the boys in the dugout. Officer Jacobs was killed in the line of duty by a teen gunman who then committed suicide. Jacobs, 28, a decorated Iraq War veteran, is survived by the boys and his wife, Meghan, who is pregnant. The Drive ended their homestand with a victory over the Columbia Fireflies. Story, Page 2C

1 DEAD IN GREENVILLE COUNTY PLANE CRASH

ROMANDO DIXSON

DIXSON@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

A man died Sunday evening when his small airplane crashed in a large, grassy field in southern Greenville County, the Coroner's Office said.

Residents reported the plane crash about 5:30 p.m. Sunday off Oak Hill Road, the Sheriff's Office said. Deputies, firefighters, and EMS responded to the scene.

The pilot, who was the lone occupant, was pronounced dead at the scene, Deputy Coroner Kent Dill said.

Mary Black said her parents live on the property and she lives across the road. She said her children and husband saw the plane spiral to the ground. Her husband and father tried to help the man.

"The plane was engulfed in flames and it was just so hot they couldn't get close enough to do anything," Black said.

Firefighters extinguished the fire, Dill said.

Black said her family was familiar with the pilot of the plane.

He lived in the area and regularly used a small, private airport nearby. She said he built the plane himself.

The Coroner's Office has not released the identity of the man. Local authorities will work with the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board on the investigation, Dill said.

NorthPointe on track despite traffic concerns

NATHANIEL CARY
NCARY@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The conversation at a Greenville Planning Commission meeting Thursday

Boulevard at what one of the project architect's called a "monumental gateway" to the city's downtown.

The project is proposed on a now-vacant lot that is bounded by the Federal

hour Harris Teeter and will have patio seating near an elevator that will take patrons to a second story outdoor wine bar. The Harris Teeter will have a drive-through pharmacy and a drive-through



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Gone, but not forgotten

Slain teacher remembered eight years later



A bench sits outside Kennedy Middle School in memory of Ann Fox Smith. Smith was murdered eight years ago today.

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU
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It has been eight years today since Aiken tragically lost Ann Fox Smith, and, while her death remains unsolved, her sister likes to focus on the good times she had with Ann.

"Ann was my only sister, and I miss her every day," said Helen Morgan. "She had a wonderful personality and was very lively."

'Champion of the underdogs'

Smith was a special education and hearing-impaired teacher at Kennedy Middle School.

"To me, Ann was a champion of the underdogs," Morgan said. "She could've chose something easier to do with her life, but she didn't. She truly cared for her students. I can still remember parents who would get

Please see **TEACHER**, Page 10A



Ann Fox Smith was a special education and hearing-impaired teacher at Kennedy Middle School when she was killed in April 2008. Police and family members are still seeking answers to her murder.

Nonprofits see benefits, drawbacks to SNAP stipulation

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

Nearly a month after a work requirement was added for some of South Carolina's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, recipients, local nonprofit organizations are seeing both sides for clients that must work to continue receiving their benefits.

In March, the S.C. Department of Social Services announced SNAP recipients between 18 and 50 who qualify as an able-bodied adult without dependents would have to meet a work requirement to continue receiving benefits.

The requirement includes working at least 80 hours a month, participating in a work program at least 20 hours per week, or any combination of working and participating in a work program at least 80 hours monthly. Work includes volunteering, as well as employment.

The requirement went into effect April 1, with around 60,000 adults that could be affected. There were around 2,347 able-bodied adults without dependents in Aiken County as of February, according to DSS.

Susan Selden, executive director of Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons in Aiken, has clients who have been victims of domestic violence and said domestic violence is a "different entity" than other able-bodied adults without dependents.

Selden said many clients have been dependent on an abuser and the abuser has controlled their finances for so long, it has become a part of the power and control that has led up to the years of abuse.

"Some of them have not worked or if they have worked, they've given their money to the abuser and let him or her control their finances," she said. "It's different when suddenly they're forced into a situation where they have to make their own financial decisions, have to become independent and have to get a full-time job."

Joanne Carter works directly with clients as a case manager at the center and is also as a DSS liaison. Carter said many of her clients that receive food stamps have been in fear of losing them.

"They depend on those right now," she said.

"There aren't necessarily jobs out there for them right now, and there are some clients that like to work (but) there just aren't jobs."

Carter added that volunteering can also be difficult for them.

"Women are broken. It takes a long time. I think a lot of women would love to do it, but it

Please see **SNAP**, Page 10A

Strawberry Festival raises money for school

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

NORTH AUGUSTA — Business was brisk Sunday for Jan Kruger, who was selling fresh strawberries from Gumb's Berry Plantation during the 30th annual Strawberry Festival at Our Lady of Peace Catholic School.

ONLINE

See more photos online at www.aikenstandard.com.

Quarts of the bright red fruit cost \$4.50 apiece, and buckets filled past their brims were \$13 each.

Less than an hour after the festival began, a line had formed.

"As of right now, people have bought about 10 buckets and about seven quarts," said Kruger as she helped a customer.



Tony Holmes enjoys a snow cone during Our Lady of Peace Catholic School's 30th annual Strawberry Festival on Sunday in North Augusta.

"I went to school here when I was a

some of the booths where the children's activities are," Kruger said. "I just work wherever they need me. I like it because you see all kinds of people, and you get to talk to everyone."

Another Strawberry Festival veteran is Pam Merrup, Our Lady of Peace's office manager. All 10 of her children have attended the school, and the youngest is in the eighth grade and about to graduate.

Merrup prepares the strawberry puree that is used in the milkshakes sold at the festival.

"I made eight quarts of puree the other day, and I made another eight quarts this morning," Merrup said. "They haven't yelled at me yet, so I guess they've still got plenty."

Merrup estimated that the Strawberry Festival raises \$4,000 to \$6,000.



Wine and Sign raises awareness for disorder
Local News, 3A

AREA DEATHS

Andrew J. Barrett, Warrersville
Edwin Ronald Yew, Aiken
William T. Hazel, Clearwater
Deaths and Funerals, 6A




Hearing Ben loud and clear

Autism fails to silence writer who
uses technology to find his voice

News, 7A

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

4 vie for District 51 board seat

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

WARE SHOALS — Four candidates filed for the Greenwood County School District 51 Board of Trustees seat of Teresa Holland, who has served on the board since 2013 and isn't seeking re-election.

The election is at-large, and anyone residing in the district was eligible to run for the seat and can vote in the election. The candidates running are: Karen Anderson, Shanon Calvert, Dollie Hodges and Matt Murphy.

The election is May 10 and open

Want to participate?

■ The election for the seat on Ware Shoals school board is May 10. All registered voters in the town are eligible to vote in the election.

to all registered voters in Ware Shoals.

Karen Anderson

Anderson, who declined to give her age, is married to Paul, principal of Ware Shoals High School, and has lived in Ware Shoals for seven years. She is a retired newspaper publisher.

Anderson said she has gotten a

lot of questions concerning her ability to run for the board since she is married to a principal.

"In small districts like this, and I did my research before I filed, it's not uncommon for family members to run for the board," Anderson said. "What I would have to do is just recuse myself from any discussion on disciplinary or salary actions on him."

Anderson said she decided to run for the seat because as a school volunteer, she sees good things in the district and areas that need improvement.

See SEAT, page 4A



KAREN
ANDERSON



SHANON
CALVERT



DOLLIE
HODGES



MATT
MURPHY

■ ABBEVILLE COUNTY

Car, body pulled from lake

By MATTHEW HENSLEY
mhensley@indexjournal.com

A car pulled from Lake Russell might contain the remains of a Calhoun Falls man who was last seen more than 15 years ago, according to Abbeville County Coroner Ronnie Ashley.

But authorities won't know for sure until they can positively identify the remains, which likely won't happen until today, and Ashley said he won't release the name until they determine if it is the missing man and notify next of kin.

The car was recovered about 4 p.m. Saturday near Beer Garden Boat Ramp.

"A fisherman picked up something on his depth finder," Ashley said, then contacted authorities.

What he saw was a submerged Chevrolet, and once a dive team pulled the vehicle from the lake, officials found a single set of remains in the vehicle.

Ashley said an autopsy is scheduled for this morning and he hopes to verify the identity of person who died by this afternoon.

The coroner, Abbeville County Sheriff's Office, State Law Enforcement Division and Calhoun Falls police are investigating.

This case is not related to the more recent disappearance of local fisherman Mitchell Gibson, who was last seen March 13. His sister, Kelly Johnson, is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that would lead to Gibson or his 24-foot SeaArk boat.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Gibson or his boat can call the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office at 864-446-6000, or the state Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-922-5431, and donations to the GoFundMe page can be made at gofundme.com/3nx2gan8.

Contact Matthew Hensley at 864-943-2529 or follow him on Twitter @JMatHensley.

■ LAURENS COUNTY

Two brothers killed in wreck

From staff reports

Two brothers died in a single-vehicle wreck Saturday night in Laurens County.

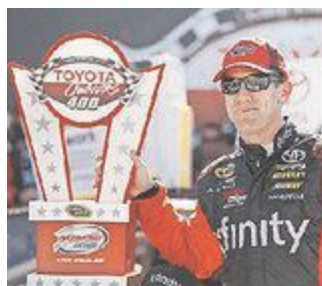
The brothers — 43-year-old Timothy

EAT FRESH



ABOVE: From left, Greenwood School District 50 art teacher Michelle Timmons, Savannah Smith, Savannah's mother, Ashley Smith and Uptown Market manager Stephanie Turner. TOP: Savannah Smith drew this design that was chosen for tote bags distributed during Uptown Market's grand opening April 21.

Fourth-grader wins



EDWARDS EDGES BUSCH AT RICHMOND

SPORTS, B1



SMC CAPTURES REGION 10 SOFTBALL TITLE

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, April 25, 2016



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TODAY TUE WED



81°/56° 83°/59° 86°/63°

Complete forecast, A10

NEWS DIGEST

1 dead after small plane crashes

One person has died after a small plane crashed in southern Greenville County.

WSPA-TV reports that according to the Federal Aviation Administration, the plane was a single-engine amateur-built Acro-duster plane that crashed in a pasture while attempting to land at Oakhill Airport in Belton. There was only one person on the plane when it went down near Oak Hill Road around 5:30 p.m., according to the Greenville County Coroner and the Sheriff's Office. The plane was on fire when emergency personnel arrived. The National Transportation Safety Board will be investigating the cause of the crash.

BUSINESS

President defends trade agreements

President Barack Obama mounted a strong defense of international trade deals Sunday in the face of domestic and foreign opposition. **A9**

TIP SHEET

Today

■ Spartanburg School District 5 meets at 6:30 p.m. at the district office, 100 N. Dandier Road, Duncan.

■ Spartanburg City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 145 W. Broad St., Spartanburg.

Tuesday

■ Spartanburg County Land Management Board of Appeals meets at 4:30 p.m. at the County Administration Building, 366 N. Church St., Spartanburg.

Thursday

■ WPOS will perform during Music on Main, a free concert from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Morgan

9/11 INQUIRY

Secret pages to be released

By Deb Riechmann
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will likely soon release at least part of a 28-page secret chapter from a congressional inquiry into 9/11 that may shed light on possible Saudi connections to the attackers.

The documents, kept in a secure room in the basement of the Capitol, contain information from the joint congressional inquiry into "specific sources of foreign support for some of the Sept. 11 hijackers while they were in the United States."

Bob Graham, who was co-chairman of that bipartisan panel, and others say the documents point suspicion at the Saudis. The former Democratic senator from Florida says an administration official told

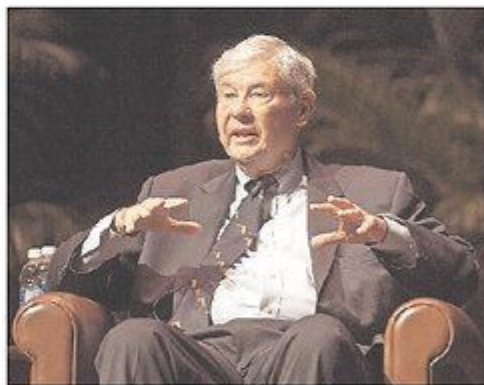
him that intelligence officials will decide in the next several weeks whether to release at least parts of the documents.

The disclosure would come at a time of strained U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia, a long-time American ally.

"I hope that decision is to honor the American people and make it available," Graham told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "The most important unanswered question of 9/11 is, did these 19 people conduct this very sophisticated plot alone, or were they supported?"

Tim Roemer, who was a member of both the joint congressional inquiry as well as the 9/11 Commission and has read the secret chapter three times, described the 28 pages as a "preliminary police report."

SEE PAGES, A4



Bob Graham speaks Oct. 12, 2012, in Gainesville, Fla. The Obama administration will likely soon release at least part of a 28-page secret chapter from a congressional inquiry into 9/11 that may shed light on possible Saudi connections to the attackers. Graham and others say the documents point suspicion at the Saudis. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

FOR FUTURE DISTRICT 5 STUDENTS

Community center to offer 3-year-old kindergarten



Starting in August, the Middle Tyger Community Center in Lyman will offer a 3-year-old kindergarten program to 16 students in the area. The program is designed to prepare children to enter kindergarten in Spartanburg District 5 schools. Debbie Strickland, 47, a former teacher, center, along with a group of children. **A10**

CAMPAIGN 2016

Muslims for Trump look past rhetoric

By Jeff Karoub
The Associated Press

DETROIT — As a Donald Trump supporter, Nedal Tamer feels he's in the minority among Muslim-Americans, comfortable with his choice yet somewhat confounded that he doesn't have more company.

Small numbers of Muslims find comfort, not concern, in Trump's strong stance on immigrants. They see it as proof that the Republican presidential front-runner could better contain extremists than other candidates.

"People have the wrong idea, even Arabs and Muslims," said Tamer, 40, who works in real estate and construction and lives in the Detroit suburb of



Tamer



Morning News

MONDAY APRIL 25, 2016

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Mostly sunny.
High 84, low 56.
DETAILS 2A

www.snow.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Family Promise of Florence

Humorist to speak at Healthy Woman event

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Southern humorist Jane Jenkins Herlong will be the keynote speaker Tuesday for Carolinas Hospital System's Healthy Woman anniversary event, "Bare Feet to High Heels and the Flip-Flops in Between."

Ashley Hobbs, Healthy Woman coordinator, said Herlong is a national speaker, South Carolina native and former Miss South Carolina.

The event will be held from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology Center in Florence. Tickets are \$25 and include dinner, adult beverages and the speaker.

"If people aren't doing anything on Tuesday night, if they have or haven't been to one of our events, this is the one to really come out for," Hobbs said. "It's going to be a great night, but it's an even greater purpose."

"Bare Feet to High Heels and the Flip-Flops in Between" is a benefit for Family Promise of Florence, an organization that helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence.

Hobbs said she doesn't think people know that when someone has a difficult situation and has to go to a shelter, in most cases the family is divided up.

"Me being a mother, that chills me to the bone," Hobbs said. "I couldn't do that. I'm very sympathetic to this situation. I couldn't really believe it, honestly. Family Promise is an organization that's working to end that and keep the family together when they're going through a difficult time."

Hobbs said Family Promise needs

See **HEALTHY**, Page 3A



The art apart



Sasha Taylor listens as her father, Eugene Taylor, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, plays the djembe drum on Main Street in Lake City during ArtFields.

Street art provides opportunity for interaction, conversation

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — Walk the streets of Lake City during ArtFields, and one thing

becomes apparent. Art is everywhere.

It's in a majority of the downtown businesses. It's in the Jones Carter Gallery. It's in the Ragsdale Old Building (or R.O.B.).

But the competition art is not the only art readily available for the enjoyment of the masses.

ArtFields also attracts a variety of street artists and performers. Some are organized

through the art festival's staff; others come for the fun of it.

Mark Conrardy of Columbia set up his easel Saturday afternoon outside the Jones

See **ARTFIELDS**, Page 3A

Artist Spotlight

Kacea McKinney

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Kacea McKinney of Orangeburg said her parents have always encouraged her drawing, but she didn't take it seriously until high school. She said she has been drawing much of her life, and her art teachers — Alvin and Bretta Staley — really had an influence on her.

Bretta Staley was the 2015 Juried Prize winner at ArtFields.

McKinney said the Staleys taught her what she knows about studio art, painting and drawing.

"I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing now without them," McKinney



Drawing titled "90's Nostalgia."

said.

What she likes most is drawing with colored pencils, although she dabbles a bit in digital art. McKinney attended the Savannah College of Art and Design, where she majored in sequential art.

About this artist

- » From: Orangeburg, S.C.
- » Age: 26
- » How many years working as an artist: Four years professionally, though she's been drawing her entire life.
- » Have you submitted to ArtFields previously? Yes, in 2013
- » Favorite artistic medium to work in: 2-D art with colored pencils.

"Usually when it comes to colored pencil pieces, I just think about what I'm interested in at the time, and I'll go off that," McKinney said.

See **MCKINNEY**, Page 3A

Lorenzo
Vice is
the only
student
graduating
from
Francis



Music man

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FMU's only voice student
prepares for the future

and my mom was a choir director. Well, still is a choir director. She was directing choirs while



NATION

Slayings of eight in Ohio called "a pre-planned execution" 5A



NATION

Family, friends of Prince say "loving goodbye" to the music icon 9A



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74°/63° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

THE ECONOMY

Obama strongly defends international trade deals

President says economy stronger, talks trans-Atlantic, trans-Pacific pacts

Obama also speaks with German chancellor on the handling of the migrant crisis

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
AND KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Associated Press

HANNOVER, GERMANY

President Barack Obama delivered a strong defense of international trade deals Sunday in the face of domestic and foreign opposition, saying it's "indisputable" that such agree-

ments strengthen the economy and make U.S. businesses more competitive worldwide.

Obama, on a farewell visit to Germany as president, is trying to counter public skepticism about a trans-Atlantic trade deal with Europe, while also facing down criticism from the 2016 presidential candidates of a pending Asia-Pacific trade pact.

MORE INSIDE

President Barack Obama says Washington isn't taking North Korea's nuclear testing proposal seriously. 9A

Despite all that, Obama said, "the majority of people still favor trade. They still recognize, on balance, that it's a good idea."

"It is indisputable that it has made our economy stronger," Obama said about international trade. He said he was confident the trans-Atlantic trade deal could be completed by the end of year, to be presented for ratification. And he said that once the U.S. presidential primary season is over and politics settle down, the trans-Pacific pact can "start moving forward."

Obama, at a news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, made a strong public show of support for her handling of the migrant issue, saying she was "on the right side of history on this."

Her decision to allow the resettlement in Germany of

SEE OBAMA, 9A



Jim Barnds, of Montauk, N.Y., checks out two of the boats on display during the Hilton Head Island Boat Show on Sunday in Windmill Harbour on Hilton Head Island.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

An ocean of boats displayed at annual show

people," Jessie Renew, event organizer, said Sunday.

The two-day boat show was held Saturday and Sunday.

Patrons were able to visit the South Carolina Yacht Club Grill, learn introductions to paddle boarding and kayaking, witness a Coast Guard Helicopter Rescue demonstration, and visit boat and forecasters yards near



SPORTS

CLOSE TO A BROKEN RECORD

Rafael Nadal wins the Barcelona Open for the ninth time, tying a record of 49 career clay-court titles. 1B



NATION

SOME MUSLIMS SUPPORT TRUMP

Small numbers of Muslims find comfort, not concern, in Donald Trump's strong stance on immigrants. 7A

Camlin Moore

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