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SC Front Pages – Monday, June 27, 2016

# The Post and Courier

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Monday, June 27, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

## Racial disparity in S.C. prisons in spotlight

Study explores why blacks more often wind up behind bars

BY DAVE MUNDAY  
and ANDREW KNAPP  
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aknapp@postandcourier.com

Black South Carolinians are over four times more likely to be imprisoned than white residents, researchers said in a recent analysis.

Advocates who authored the report about racial disparities among American inmates see promising signs from South Carolina's prison system, while

defense attorneys say lingering social issues in black communities and strict sentencing guidelines still need to be addressed.

South Carolina's rate of incarceration for black people ranks the state among the lowest nationwide, according to "The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons." The analysis was done by The Sentencing Project, a Washington, D.C., research and advocacy group.

In New Jersey, the highest on the list,

black people are 12 times more likely than whites to go to prison. The national average is 3.1, above South Carolina's average of 4.3.

Still, the Palmetto State has the fourth highest ratio of black prisoners to white inmates, the groups report on 2014 data found.

The state's efforts in recent years to drive down the total prison population through sentencing reforms has

Please see PRISONS, Page A5

### Prison population

The percentage of black inmates in South Carolina prisons, as well as the total prison population, has eased slightly since 2012. These are the populations from each of those years and this month, followed by the percentages of black and white inmates. The remaining percentage each year was made up of other races.

Period	Inmates	Black	White
2012	22,161	65 percent	33 percent
2013	22,168	64 percent	33 percent
2014	21,904	64 percent	34 percent
2015	21,251	62 percent	35 percent
June	20,605	61 percent	36 percent

—Source: S.C. Department of Corrections

## Restoring an old jewel

1898 park inspires plan to revitalize 70 acres of former Navy base



Cousins Cyndie Robinson (left) and Jocelyn Eady share a swing at North Charleston's Riverfront Park in March 2013. A new plan to revitalize a 70-acre tract on the old Navy base in North Charleston calls for new parks, event venues, cafes and homes.

BY BRENDA RINDGE  
brindge@postandcourier.com

One day in the not-too-distant future, North Charleston's Riverfront Park area may be a destination not only for those wanting to stroll along the river but also for those hoping to hear a concert, get a bite to eat or, in some cases, to arrive home.

That's the vision emerging from a new city effort to plan for the future of the most scenic portion of the former Charleston Naval Base. And it's a vision partly rooted in the past. At the end of the 19th century, Charleston began

creating Chicora Park here — a sort of Lowcountry version of New York's Central Park, but one that quickly evaporated when President Teddy Roosevelt wanted to establish a naval base here.

Fast forward more than a century to last year, when the city of North Charleston hired landscape architect Steve Dudash of Thomas and Hutton to create a master plan for the 70-acre tract on the base's northern end — an area that already has seen a few other plans since the base closed two decades ago.

North Charleston City Council recently saw Dudash's outline for new park areas, event

venues, restaurants, cafes and housing in the Chicora Park area, which he called "one of the greatest and most precious jewels in this whole area."

### 'We owe it to the next generation'

The area is roughly half the size of the nearby planned \$780 million Palmetto Railways rail yard, scheduled to open in late 2019.

But unlike the flat expanse being converted into a rail yard, the Chicora site includes rolling hills, historic homes and a scenic creek.

Please see PARK, Page A4

## Shortfall a painful lesson for schools

Cutting \$18.3M to have big impact on classrooms this year

BY PAUL BOWERS  
pbowers@postandcourier.com

When Charleston County schools welcome an estimated 1,400 additional students in August, nearly every

school district employee will be asked to do more with less. Classroom sizes will grow. Departments will shrink.

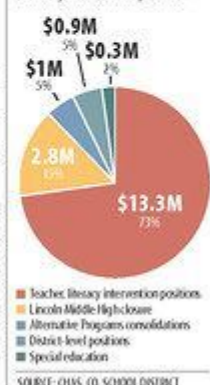
The workers left behind will need to pick up the slack. Overall, the General Operating Fund — the largest portion of the budget used to fund day-to-day operations — will grow from \$476.8 million to \$493.2 million, the smallest increase in recent history. The district was obligated to increase spending in some areas, including utility costs, printing, school supplies, and state-mandated increases to teacher salaries and benefits.

Should the school board have made more cuts at the district office to save teaching positions? Go to [postandcourier.com/polls](http://postandcourier.com/polls) to vote.

Please see SHORTFALL, Page A4

### Budget cuts

In order to balance its General Operating Fund budget for next school year, the Charleston County School District made \$18.3 million in spending cuts across several areas. Nearly three-quarters of the savings came from reducing teacher or literacy intervention positions.



### Inside



**SPORTS**  
Winning ways continue for former Stingrays coach. C1

**BUSINESS**  
Survey finds local job market among tops in nation. D1

## Jubilant Panama opens revamped canal

Expansion helped spur \$2 billion in Charleston port projects

BY JUAN ZAMORANO  
and KATHIA MARTINEZ  
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY — Fireworks exploded as a huge container ship made an inaugural passage through the newly expanded Panama Canal on Sunday, formally launching the Central American nation's multimillion-dollar bet on a brighter economic future despite tough times for global shipping.

The Chinese-owned Cosco Shipping

Panama passed through the Atlantic locks at Agua Clara in the early morning and in the afternoon completed the 50-mile journey to the Pacific at the Cocoli locks near the capital, stewarded by tugboats and cheered by dignitaries and exuberant crowds of thousands.

The \$5.25-billion project went online nearly two years late after construction delays, labor strife and apparent cost overruns, but officials were still bullish and in a celebratory mood as they declared the expanded canal

open for business.

"This is an achievement that all of us Panamanians should be proud of," President Juan Carlos Varela said at the inaugural ceremony on the outskirts of Panama City. "Today marks a historic moment for Panama, for our hemisphere and the world."

This new transit route is the tip of the iceberg in making Panama once again the logistics center of the Americas, canal administrator Jorge Luis

Please see PANAMA, Page A4



Partly Cloudy.  
High 88, Low 74.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast. B6

Bridge ..... B7  
Business ..... B1  
Classified ..... C5  
Comics ..... B6  
Crossword ..... B8  
Editorial ..... B10  
Health ..... B1  
Movies ..... B7  
Obituaries ..... B4  
Sports ..... C1  
Sudoku ..... B5  
Television ..... B2

Charleston  
Deals today

Brown Dog Deli  
\$10 for \$20 worth of  
Brown Dog Deli.  
See A2



COLLEGE WORLD  
SERIES

Road  
to the  
finals for  
Coastal  
Carolina,

1B



## Columbia fans on Coastal Carolina's CWS bid: 'They're our team now'

BY GLEN LUKE FLANAGAN  
gflanagan@thestate.com

Columbia is traditionally Gamecocks territory, but these days, many baseball fans are

throwing their support behind Coastal Carolina, as the team plays its opening game Monday in the College World Series finals.

Thirsty Fellow, a pizzeria and pub on Gadsden Street

less than a mile from the Gamecocks' baseball stadium, has seen a lot of diners cheering for the Chanticleers in recent days, said Cam Shealy,

SEE COASTAL, 6A

MONDAY JUNE 27 2016

\$1.00

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY; T-STORM CHANCE HI 94 LO 74  
YESTERDAY: HI 94 LO 77 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0"  
FORECAST, 8C

# The State



Visitors to Finlay Park encounter disrepair like this.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM DOMINICK, tdominick@thestate.com

FINLAY PARK

## Mayor drafting plan for park renovation

Benjamin says he will propose creating a small tax district to fund work

BY CLIFF LEBLANC  
clleblanc@thestate.com

A multimillion-dollar renovation of Finlay Park and a pedestrian-friendly remodeling of parts of two major downtown streets might be within reach if local governments will agree to a controversial financing plan being floated by Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin.

Benjamin said last week that he's working on a proposal to create a small taxing district that would capture property taxes on buildings along Assembly Street stretching north to Laurel Street, west to just behind the rundown park and south to Washington Street.



Erosion and disrepair plague Finlay Park as shown in this image of a tree in a terraced area.

Richland County library, Benjamin said.

"The thought is to use TIFs, tax increment financing, on a much smaller scale

"I'd like to see it happen to help create the revitalization of Finlay Park."

In addition to overhauling the park, the proposal in-

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: See more photos of the dilapidated Finlay Park. Watch a video of the mayor explaining his plan to pay for repairs.

workable park, more pedestrian-friendly streets nearby, presumably more people wanting to live and work in an increasingly vital downtown, and rising tax values all around the area, which should benefit the city in the long run.

Benjamin said he will submit the idea to City Council as soon as one of its August meetings. Council is scheduled to meet only once in July. City manager Teresa Wilson said city staff has been working on the plan and would be ready to bring it to council in August.

HOUSE DISTRICT 79

## Turnout crucial in tight runoff

Richland 2 school board member faces pastor in Democratic primary runoff

Voter turnout expected to be light

Getting core supporters back out to vote will be key, pundits say

BY AVERY G. WILKS  
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Pastor Ivory Thigpen is knocking on doors and sending out new mailings. Richland 2 school board member Monica Elkins is contacting some of the thousands of students and parents who she met in more than two decades as an educator.

Both candidates know that after months of campaigning and tens of thousands of dollars spent, voter turnout - or the lack thereof - will decide Tuesday's House District 79 Democratic primary runoff.

"I would venture to say that most people don't even know there's a runoff," Richland County Democratic Party chairman Jay Parmley said. "They have to go back to their core, core supporters that they have developed during their campaign, and you have to impress upon them why (they) need to go back and vote."

Pundits expect voter turnout to be light - likely less than 10 percent of the eligible voters - in the race for the seat that state Rep. Mia McLeod, D-Richland, is vacating to run for state Senate.

Less than 16 percent of voters in heavily Democratic Richland County cast ballots in the June 14 primary, with Thigpen finishing just 31 votes ahead of Elkins. Tuesday's runoff is one of just two races on Richland County ballots.

"Every vote matters," said Thigpen, whose platform hasn't changed since the primary.



Thigpen



Elkins





## COLLEGE WORLD SERIES, 1C CC READY FOR FINALS



METRO, 3A  
Regulating  
events at  
Capitol

# The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,  
JUNE 27, 2016  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

BRITISH POLITICS IN DISARRAY AS 'BREXIT' FALLOUT CONTINUES PAGE 1B

## What you need to know about June 28 runoffs

Senate, council, sheriff  
spots are up for grabs

AMANDA COYNE  
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Voters in Greenville and Pickens Counties have another opportunity to cast their ballot on Tuesday, June 28, when multiple county and state offices are up for runoffs.

All registered voters in these counties are eligible to vote in runoff elections. The only restriction is that those who

voted on June 14 must vote for the same party's candidates — if you voted for Republicans in the primary, you may only vote for Republicans in the runoff, and the same is true for those who voted for Democrats.

To find who your legislators are in the S.C. House of Representatives and Senate, go to [scstatehouse.gov/legislators-search](http://scstatehouse.gov/legislators-search). To find who your Greenville County council member is, go to [greenvillecounty.org/council](http://greenvillecounty.org/council) and click "Find your representatives." Pickens County does not have an online tool to find which district or representative is

yours, but county council districts are largely divided by towns. We've broken down each runoff race, from state senate to county council, below.

**Senate**  
**District 2: Pickens County**

Incumbent **Sen. Larry Martin** won the most votes in the primary — 6,284, or 45.09 percent — but fell short of the 50 percent required to win outright. He will face the second-place finisher, **former state Rep. Rex Rice**, who received 4,641 votes, 33.3 percent. Army veteran Don

See RUNOFFS, Page 5A



COURTESY PHOTO

County and state offices are up for runoffs.

## Man dies after being shot in Greenville

Lollis was checking  
on scene of crash

ROMANDO DIXSON  
RDIXSON@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

A man died early Sunday after he was shot outside his home in Pelzer, the Greenville County Coroner's Office said.

Terry Lee Lollis, 62, died at 2:05 a.m. Sunday while in surgery, the Coroner's Office said. The Sheriff's Office described him as a third party in a chain of events that started with a fiery car wreck.

Dmarion Jaquay Gilmore, identified as the 19-year-old driver of the car, was charged in connection with the shooting. He is being held at Greenville County jail under no bond.

Lollis' only child, MacKenzie Lollis, spoke to Gilmore at his bond hearing Sunday afternoon. She cried as she lamented that her 5-year-old son will never get to see his grandfather again.

"I'm still in complete shock about what happened," Lollis said. "I did not expect my dad to die that way."

Witnesses called 911 to report that a car struck a telephone pole and caught fire about 10:40 p.m. Saturday in the 1700 block of State 418, the Sheriff's Office said. The driver of the car was able to exit the vehicle, the Sheriff's Office said, and told bystanders not to call police.

"The driver was told that police were already on the way and a verbal altercation ensued," Sgt. Jennings Autrey said in an email.

During the argument, one of the witnesses presented a bat and the driver of the car presented a fire-



Dmarion  
Gilmore



Berea junior sprinter Kennedy Dennis leads the pack during a team practice in March.

BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF

## SPRINTING FOR HOME

Friends lend a hand to give Berea High sprinter hope of competing on home track

ANGELIA DAVIS  
DAVISAL@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

One of Berea High School's most accomplished track athletes has never had the pleasure of competing on her home track. That may change before sprinter Kennedy Dennis graduates in 2017.

Alumni and supporters of Berea High are raising money to ensure it happens.

Friends of Berea High School, Inc. are working to raise \$35,000 to buy equipment for the track team so that it can host meets again. But the drive is to enable Dennis, who has five individual state championships, to run a



See SHOOTING, Page 2A







**SPORTS** Coastal Carolina, Arizona open CWS championship series today. **Page 1B**

# Morning News

MONDAY JUNE 27, 2016

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Sunny to partly cloudy and humid.  
High 94, low 71.  
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents



MORNING NEWS FILE PHOTO  
Fireworks are reflected in the hood of a pickup truck as they fill the air above Darlington Raceway on the Fourth of July last year.

## Local officials share tips for firework safety

Avoid backfires during July 4 celebrations

BY JESSICA IMBIBO  
Morning News  
jimbib01@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Fourth of July holiday goes hand-in-hand with setting off fireworks and lighting sparklers to celebrate America's independence. Unfortunately, fireworks also are synonymous with a high number of injuries around this time of year.

In 2014, an estimated 10,500 people were injured by fireworks nationally. Nearly 70 percent of those injuries occurred during a one-month study period from June 20 to July 20. An average of 230 people each day are sent to the emergency room during the month surrounding July 4, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

The National Fire Protection Association said that sparklers alone account for more than one-fourth of fireworks injuries. Sparklers are often a product that is considered safe for young children. The seemingly harmless firework burns hot enough to melt glass and can reach temperatures near 1,200 degrees.

For people who are planning to light up the sky with consumer fireworks this weekend, city officials have released a few tips to keep firecrackers from backfiring on the summer holiday.

When purchasing fireworks, make sure they are clearly labeled with the name of the product, the manufacturer's name, a warning label describing necessary safety precautions and instructions for safe use. Never attempt to create your own fireworks at home, and do not use any products that advertise for assembling fireworks.

The use of consumer fireworks within the city of Florence is illegal, but fireworks are permitted for use in Florence County. Anyone who violates the city ordinance could face hundreds of dollars in fines or 30 days in jail, according to Maj. Carlos Raines of the Florence Police Department.

Permissible fireworks in the county include Roman candles, bottle rockets, fountains, sparklers and firecrackers. These approved fireworks should contain no more than 50 milligrams of powder. Once purchased, fireworks should be stored in a cool, dry area.

The CPSC recommends that adults not allow young children to play with fireworks. Adults may allow older children to use fireworks under close supervision. West Florence Fire Marshal Dwight Mobley said many adults will let their teens light fireworks unsupervised.

"That's where a lot of the problems occur," Mobley said. "You take for granted that teenagers are going to be safe, but be-

City of Florence

## 'Ed Robinson Way'

A sign marks the start of Edward "Ed" Robinson Way at the intersection of Pine and Church streets in Florence.



JUSTIN JOHNSON/MORNING NEWS

Stretch of Pine Street renamed in his honor

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Long-serving Florence City Councilman Ed Robinson has been laid to rest, but

his name will live on in the city's second district — figuratively as a champion for the downtrodden and literally as a street has been renamed after him.

See **ROBINSON**, Page 3A



Each Monday, the Morning News features a good news story on a person, place or organization in the Pee Dee. If you have a suggestion for someone or something to profile, send it to [news@scnw.com](mailto:news@scnw.com).

## 'Healing Waters'



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

John Leum poses next to one of the paintings in his "Healing Waters" series.

## Florence veteran finds solace in art, fly fishing

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN  
Morning News  
dswearingen@florencenews.com



FLORENCE — John Leum thought he would never fish again.

The 68-year-old veteran of the Air Force, Navy and Army lost most of his shoulder mobility late in 2005 when he was injured in combat.

"When I came back after 2006 and I found that I couldn't use my arms like I used to, I sold everything."



## POLITICS

Hillary Clinton considers the idea of two women on the ticket 6A



## LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

Events in Beaufort County set to celebrate nation's freedom 5B



MONDAY JUNE 27 2016

75¢

VOLUME 46, No. 179  
STAY CONNECTED ISLANDPACKET.COMFACEBOOK.COM/ISLANDPACKET  
TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND  
BLUFFTONPartly cloudy  
86°/75° See 2A

# THE ISLAND PACKET

## BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Company to manage staffing substitutes

Atlanta-based company Source4Teachers to take over substitute placement

Company promises 95 percent fill rate and on-site sub training

District's costs shouldn't go up, officials say

BY REBECCA LURVE  
rlurve@islandpacket.com

Next school year, principals will only have to make one call to get substitute teachers into their empty classrooms.

Source4Teachers will do the rest.

The Atlanta-based company will begin managing the Beaufort County School District's substitute and miscellaneous staffing programs in July, prom-

ising it will fill at least 95 percent of empty classes, a drastic improvement from the district's 73 percent fill rate this past school year.

If Source4Teachers doesn't meet that goal, Beaufort County can sever its contract — which is still being finalized — at any time.

The agreement should cost the district the same as its current substitute services, about \$2 million per year, because Source4Teachers' surcharge is about the same as the benefits

the district was paying its subs, according to district chief finance and operations officer Phyllis White and spokesman Jim Foster.

School board member Earl Campbell worried at Tuesday's regular meeting that contracting with the company would not solve the district's severe substitute shortage because it doesn't increase sub pay or expand the pool of available employees.

But fellow board member Geri Kinton responded that the time to talk salary increases had passed — the 2016-17 budget is under review by Beaufort County Council — and White reassured him that if Source4Teachers does not meet expectations, the district can walk away.

The district has been grappling with empty classrooms for years, and had 22 long-term

SEE SUBSTITUTES, 9A



## LOCAL

### APPEAL WORRIES RESIDENTS

Hilton Head Island property owners fear they could be listening to the grind of a tree chipper for years to come. 3A



JAY KARR: jkarr@islandpacket.com

## Messy fun at Mud Run

**TOP:** Mud flies as a pickup truck charges through the 225-foot-long mud pit at the Hampton County Watermelon Festival Mud Run on Sunday. The annual event, in



## SPORTS

### NAVAL ACADEMY GRADUATE WINS

Billy Hurley III wins his hometown Quicken Loans National at Congressional for his first PGA Tour victory. 1B



## NATION

### STATE PREPARES FOR MORE RAIN

As West Virginians con-





## STEWART BREAKS 3-YEAR DROUGHT

SPORTS, B1



## COASTAL CAROLINA GOING FOR TITLE

SPORTS, B1

# Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, June 27, 2016



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**TODAY TUE WED**



90°/69° 82°/65° 88°/68°

Complete forecast, A8

### ONLINE EXTRA



Visit [GoUpstate.com](http://GoUpstate.com) to see photo galleries from the Miss South Carolina Pageant on Saturday night in Columbia, as well as from Sunday's news conference featuring Miss South Carolina 2016, Rachel Wyatt (above, right) and Miss South Carolina Teen 2016, Makayla Stark (above, left). Wyatt is from Piedmont; Stark is from Inman.

### TIP SHEET

#### Today

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

■ Floyd's Passion Band will perform during Music on Main, a free concert from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Morgan Square in downtown Spartanburg.

### INSIDE

#### Expanded Panama Canal open for business

Fireworks exploded as a huge

### UK REFERENDUM

## Turmoil deepens after vote

By Gregory Katz  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's shocking decision to remove itself from the European Union brought more political turmoil Sunday as Scotland's leader threatened to block the move and the opposition Labour Party's leader faced a coup attempt from his own legislators.

The sense of unease spread as European leaders stepped up the pressure on Britain to begin its complex exit from the

28-nation EU immediately, rather than wait several months as British Prime Minister David Cameron prefers.

The vote to leave sent the pound and global stock markets plunging. Britain's Treasury said finance minister George Osborne would make an early morning statement Monday "to provide reassurance about financial and economic stability" before the London Stock Exchange reopens.

The leaders of the successful campaign to leave the EU stayed

largely out of the public eye, as opponents accused them of lacking a plan to calm the crisis the result has triggered. In his first statement since Friday morning, "leave" leader and former London Mayor Boris Johnson used his column in the Daily Telegraph newspaper to urge unity and say "the negative consequences (of the vote) are being wildly overdone."

He said Britain would forge "a new and better relationship with the EU — based on free trade and partnership, rather

than a federal system."

The vote, however, risks causing a political schism in the United Kingdom. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she would "consider" advising the Scottish Parliament to try to use its power to prevent Britain from actually leaving the EU. She said Scottish lawmakers might be able to derail the move by withholding "legislative consent" for a British exit, or Brexit.

SEE TURMOIL, A4

### MILITARY TRADITION

## 'Proud to have served my country'

Sill family dedicates bricks at American Legion Post 28

By Chris Lavender  
[chris.lavender@shj.com](mailto:chris.lavender@shj.com)

Two vintage World War II aircraft flew over the site of American Legion Post 28's Veterans' Commemorative Walk in Spartanburg on Sunday, honoring those who have served in the military.

The fly-over was part of a ceremony held by members of the Sill family, which dedicated 23 bricks at the walk. The first to serve was Elijah Sill, who volunteered to fight in the War of 1812. According to Phillip Sill of Orlando, Fla., Elijah had 90 acres of land just outside Camden when he went off to fight.

Elijah's four sons — O. William Sill, Edward Sill, J. McCorkle Sill and John H. Sill — later fought in the Civil War. Their names were among the 23 unveiled at the brick walk.

The walk also features Robert E. Sill, Joe Lee Sill, Geri Sill and J. Thorny Sill — who served in the military during WWII. Thorny survived the sinking of the USS Gambier Bay in the Battle of Leyte Gulf and received the



The Sill family dedicated 23 bricks Sunday at American Legion Post 28 in honor of their family, which has a tradition of U.S. military service dating back to the War of 1812. Kevin Sill, an officer in the Army from Spartanburg, and family member John Sill, a Navy veteran, unveil their family bricks at the American Legion Post. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM





## INDEX-JOURNAL

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indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## Lakelands under a dry spell

Residents urged to use caution during July Fourth festivities

By ANNA KATHRYN STODDARD  
astoddard@indexjournal.com

Drought conditions are creeping into the Lakelands.

The drought spans from northern Abbeville, Greenwood and Laurens counties to southern Oconee County. The period of dry weather has had negative effects on the area so far.

"The Greenwood-Abbeville area is

abnormally dry," said Scott Krentz, a meteorological intern with the National Weather Service's Greenville-Spartanburg office. "There are five levels of droughts, and most of the Upstate is in the Drought 1 level."

Drought 1 is the second level on the drought-severity scale. Areas in the Drought 1 phase experience lower water levels because of low precipitation.

Some farms in the area have been affected by the lack of rain. "Local crops, such as hay, have suffered a year of poor production," soil conservationist Heather Benjamin said. "Ponds have become murky and unfit for animals to drink, forcing farmers to provide new water sources for their livestock."

For the rest of the area's residents, the drought means increased danger of fire. With the Fourth of July approaching,

fireworks are increasingly hazardous. The use of fireworks in dry weather requires extreme caution in order to avoid sparking a fire.

The dry spell could also affect Lake Greenwood's water level.

"We regulate the water level of the lake by controlling how much is released into the Saluda River," said county engineer Rosie Corwin.

Fluctuation in water levels is normal,

but boat owners should be aware that lake levels could be lower than usual and use caution when operating a boat near the shore.

"The rainfall for the month of June in Greenwood this year is 1.16 inches, which is less than 50 percent of the long-term average," state climatologist Wes Tyler said.

The National Weather Service does not predict an escalation in the drought's severity, but advises people to use fire and water carefully until the season of dryness ends.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCING

## Who's paying for those ads?

Report: It's harder to know where the money comes from

By GEOFF MULVIHILL  
gmulvihill@indexjournal.com

It's getting harder to know who is funding political advertising at the state level as more money becomes anonymous or is filtered from one political action committee to another, a new study finds.

In 2014, the last year in which statewide elections were widespread across the country, only 29 cents of every \$1 of independent political spending could be tracked easily to its original individual donor, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. The center found that dark money and what it calls "gray" money are rising even faster in state elections than in federal races.

In places where the costs of elections can be cheaper because word is distributed by direct mail rather than television ads, the spending can have a larger impact.

## What is dark money?

■ Campaign funding from nonprofit advocacy groups that spend for political purposes but are not subject to campaign finance disclosures.

Dark money comes from nonprofit advocacy groups that spend on political purposes but are not subject to campaign finance disclosures. Its rise is one of the effects of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling, which removed caps on how much corporations, unions and interest groups can spend on advocacy communications that do not specifically call for the election or defeat of candidates.

That category of spending grew from less than \$600,000 in 2006 to nearly \$22 million in 2014 in the states the study evaluated.

Despite that rise, the majority of state political spending overall remains from traditional channels where most large contributions must be disclosed: candidates' official committees and party organizations.

One election with heavy dark money spending was the 2014 Arizona race for two seats on the Public Utilities Commission, which was in the throes of a debate over solar power policy.

More than \$3 million in dark money poured into that race through social welfare nonprofit groups that in turn donated to PACs that made independent expenditures. That was up from just \$3,000 in total outside spending in a similar race in 2008 — and all the money at that time was linked to specific donors.

'There are days I leave thinking, 'I hope I made everybody proud' — not just my dad, everybody.'

— Chip Stockman III



PHOTOS BY DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ / INDEX-JOURNAL

Chip Stockman III, right, became president of Stockman Oil in 1992 when his father, Pierce Stockman, handed over control of the company.

## A WELL-OILED MACHINE

CHIP STOCKMAN III  
Stockman Oil president

## Even closer

Name: Chip Stockman III, third-generation president of the family-owned Stockman Oil.

Third-generation owner of family business in Greenwood discusses legacy, history

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ  
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Before accepting the 2016 Small Business Person of the Year award, Chip Stockman III was described as having exceptional leadership skills and having grown a successful



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