

From: Taillon, Jeff

To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>

Date: 8/7/2013 9:06:03 AM

Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Wednesday, August 7, 2013

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## METRO RAIN NORM WASHES AWAY



## NATION, 2A Childhood obesity declines

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 7, 2013  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

INSIDE

Rising tax receipts shrinking the national deficit, 7A

FINAL EDITION

# US LEAVES YEMEN EMBASSY

Urges Americans to flee after intercepting secret message between al-Qaida leaders

By Iona Craig  
USA Today

SANAA, Yemen — U.S. drones buzzed over the capital of Yemen on Tuesday after the State Department ordered all nonessential personnel out of the embassy and urged all Americans to leave because of "the con-

tinued potential for terrorist attacks."

The department has advised nongovernment U.S. citizens to stay away from Yemen since the country's political unrest erupted in 2011.

The U.S. Air Force transported State Department personnel out of Sanaa early Tuesday. Mil-

itary personnel remain "on the ground in Yemen to support the U.S. State Department and monitor the security situation," Pentagon press secretary George Little said.

A senior defense official told The Associated Press that 50 to 100 diplomatic personnel were flown out of Sanaa at dawn Tuesday and were taken to Ramstein Air Base in Germany. The official was not authorized to discuss the information pub-

licly.

"As staff levels at the Embassy are restricted, our ability to assist U.S. citizens in an emergency and provide routine consular services remains limited and may be further constrained by the fluid security situation," the State Department travel warning said.

The British government also ordered its embassy evacuated

See YEMEN, Page 3A

## DRONE ATTACK

The U.S. has pummeled terror leaders in Yemen with targeted drone strikes. On Tuesday, Yemeni security officials said a suspected U.S. drone killed four alleged al-Qaida militants in a volatile eastern province of the country. The drone fired a missile at a car carrying the four men around 2 a.m. local time, setting it on fire and killing all of them, the officials said.



Wendell Roberts browses the CDs at Hughes Main Library. Revenue streams for buying books, CDs and DVDs are down. HEIDI HEILBRUNNSTADT

DOWNTOWN

## Bush stent a common procedure

Ex-president had  
blocked artery

By Liv Osby  
Staff writer  
losby@greenvillenews.com

The procedure that former President George W. Bush underwent Tuesday to open a blocked coronary artery is performed thousands of times a day across the nation, dozens of times a day in Greenville alone.

"It's very common," Dr. Mark Grabarczyk, an interventional cardiologist with Upstate Cardiology, told GreenvilleOnline.com. "We do 20 to 30 a day at St. Francis."

Nationwide, nearly half a million coronary artery stents were implanted in inpatients in 2010, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But the procedure is also done on outpatients, so a total number is elusive, according to the American College of Cardiology.

Bush, 67, underwent surgery at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas to implant a stent, according to USA TODAY.

During a physical examination Monday, doctors found a blockage in an artery of the former president's heart, said Bush spokesman Freddy Ford.

See STENT, Page 3A

# BALANCING THE BOOKS

Budget keeps library  
system from doing more

By Anna Lee  
Staff writer  
alee@greenvillenews.com

If you want to check out the USA TODAY No. 1 bestseller, get in line. As of Tuesday night, 158 people were ahead of you in the Greenville



GreenvilleOnline.com

See what library director Beverly James has to say about Greenville's collection in a video at GreenvilleOnline.com.

apportioned to pay for the services its growing county population demands. There are new electronic subscriptions to consider, along with e-books and their varied publishing fees to budget for, all

INSIDE





Fresh allegation could spur new airport probe. BUSINESS, B6

## s'mores

Creative spins on a campfire tradition

FOOD, D1

## TRAPPED FOR 33 HOURS

Moncks Corner man survives wreck in Montana forest

LOCAL, A4

# The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, August 7, 2013

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Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00

## Latham jailed in federal probe

Estranged wife accused him in murder-for-hire plot; arraignment set for today

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

Federal investigators arrested former Charleston banker Chris Latham on Tuesday evening in connection with a sealed indictment while he was vacationing in the Upstate, his attorney said.

Latham, whose estranged wife has accused him of being involved in a plot to kill her, was reportedly arrested around 7 p.m.

Stephen Schmutz, Latham's attorney, said agents with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives took Latham into custody while

he was on an outing with family and friends at Lake Jocassee in Salem. The 50-year-old Sullivan's Island man was expected to be lodged in the Charleston County jail late Tuesday night, he said.

Schmutz said the indictment against Latham is sealed and he

had no details as to the nature of the charges. Latham is expected to be arraigned in U.S. District Court in Charleston on Wednesday, he said.

A prosecutor handling the case with the U.S. Attorney's Office could not immediately be reached for comment late Tuesday.

The ATF has been the lead investigative agency probing the alleged murder-for-hire plot targeting Latham's estranged wife, Nancy Latham, a Mount Pleasant real estate agent and state lottery official.

Please see LATHAM, Page A9



Chris Latham is to be arraigned Wednesday.

## \$50,000 missing from jail

New safeguards fail to stop 2nd case in Dorchester County

BY BO PETERSEN  
and GLENN SMITH  
bpetersen@postandcourier.com  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

ST. GEORGE — The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating missing money at the Dorchester County Detention Center for the second time in six years.

Some \$50,000 is suspected to have been taken from the jail, and county officials are concerned it might be more. A random internal audit discovered the apparent embezzlement, authorities said Tuesday.

Sheriff L.C. Knight requested that SLED conduct an investigation. A five-year employee suspected in the incident "is no longer employed at the sheriff's department," Knight said. No charges have been filed yet.

The exact amount missing hasn't been determined yet, but Knight and County Councilman George Bailey confirmed the suspected amount so far is in the range of \$50,000.

Knight was elected to office in 2008 after a scandal emerged under former Sheriff Ray Nash over \$303,000 in missing money. A jail employee was arrested, and Nash did not run for re-election. Knight during his campaign rallied on Nash for the management failure. Both Nash and Knight put in measures to prevent it from happening again.

"I hate it. But it happened," Knight said Tuesday. "We had internal controls. We thought we had everything in place where it could not happen. You put safeguards in place, and if somebody works at it long enough, they find a way around it."

More controls already have been put in place to close the loophole, he said. County Council Chairman Bill Itearn and Bailey, chairman of council's Public Safety Committee, said Knight had taken the appropriate measures and they are confident the incident doesn't indicate ongoing money management problems at the jail.

Please see JAIL, Page A8



The spotted turtle is one of the types sold to agents in an undercover operation that resulted in felony charges. The illegal harvest of turtles in South Carolina could devastate wild turtle species along the coast, according to a herpetologist with the state Department of Natural Resources.

## Turtle cops nab S.C. men

2 face felony charges in federal operation designed to clamp down on lucrative illegal trade

BY SCHUYLER KROFF  
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In the black market animal trade, turtles are considered easy to catch and easy to sell, either as pets or as food for Asian appetites. And for two South Carolina men, it could also mean a trip to prison.

Federal authorities in Florida have filed felony charges against two men accused of illegally selling a variety of native turtles to an undercover agent in the Sunshine State.

While the alleged violations of the wildlife protection Lacey Act may not be as common as trafficking in drugs or guns, documents filed in the case indicate selling turtles could be potentially as profitable.

One of the men reportedly boasted making \$9,000 a week selling and shipping spotted turtles, which market wise are considered one of the more valuable species found in the state's watersheds.

The other man hinted his operation was more extensive than just him alone in the outdoors.

Please see TURTLES, Page A6



Yellow belly slider turtles are among those sold on the black market. Federal officials have charged two South Carolina men with illegally selling several kinds of turtles.

### About the law

Under the Lacey Act, it is unlawful to import, export, sell, acquire, or purchase fish, wildlife or plants that are taken, possessed, transported, or sold: 1) In violation of U.S. or Indian law, or 2) In interstate or foreign commerce involving any fish, wildlife, or plants taken possessed or sold in violation of State or foreign law.

—Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Reduced furlough a relief for area

Toll on civilian workers, economy less than expected

BY DAVID SLADE  
dslade@postandcourier.com

Unpaid furloughs for an estimated 4,300 defense workers in the Charleston area will end five weeks earlier than expected, restoring millions of payroll dollars to the local economy that were expected to be lost.

Most civilian workers at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic, the Air Force Base and other facilities have been taking one day off a week without pay since July 12.

"They were expecting 11 unpaid furlough days, but instead will have six, the last of which will be next week."

"Our senior leadership was just notified," said Rosetta Alexander, chief of Public Affairs Operations at Joint Base Charleston, on Tuesday afternoon.

The Associated Press had reported the reduction in furloughs earlier in the day, citing anonymous sources. Many defense employees learned of the change from news reports, before official word of the reduction trickled down from Washington.

When Leilani Mikala of Summerville heard the news, she said it means her family will be able to stop drawing on their savings, now that her husband George, a SPAWAR employee, will be back to earning full pay.

Please see FURLOUGH, Page A7

### By the numbers

Various DoD civilians affected by sequestration furloughs in the area:

- Army Strategic Logistics Activity Charleston: 38 civilians
- 841st Army Transportation Command: 25 civilians
- Army Corps of Engineers: 60 employees
- Nuclear Power Training School: 5-10 civilians
- Consolidated BRIG: 23 civilians
- Naval Health Clinic: 140 civilians
- SPAWAR Atlantic: 2,600 civilians
- Air Force Base: 1,390 civilians
- Estimated Charleston total: 4,300 people



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High 89, Low 72.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast, B8

Bridge — 07	Crosswords — 04	Obituaries — 04
Students — 06	Editorials — 01	The South — 01
Classifieds — 01	Food — 01	Sports — 01
Comics — 06	Movies — 04	Television — 05

**Charleston Deals today**

**Charleston RiverDogs**  
Buy tickets for Aug. 31, get tickets free to redeem any time during season. See A2



Lattimore eager to get back on the field this season. **C1**

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**The State**  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

#### COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL

# Mayor's crime-scene ban fails; city manager strikes back

By CLIF LeBLANC  
clblanc@thestate.com

Columbia's mayor and city manager had a public falling out Tuesday, barely seven months into a workplace relationship that critics once decried as too

close.

The split occurred over Mayor Steve Benjamin's proposal to ban city administrators and politicians from active police crime scenes. City manager Teresa Wilson said she took the proposal as a shot aimed to impugn her

integrity because of her decision to go to the site of the July 12 arrest of state civil rights leader Lonnie Randolph.

"I don't care who it is. I'm not going to allow anybody to attack my personal credibility," Wilson told The State newspaper after

Benjamin's proposal died in a 5-1 vote. The mayor was the only one of the six council members at the meeting to vote in support of his suggestion that would have allowed City Council mem-

SEE COUNCIL PAGE A5

## Military trims furlough days to 6

Civilians originally were to have 11; change benefits S.C. workers, economy

By JEFF WILKINSON  
wilkinson@thestate.com

The U.S. military has lowered from 11 to 6 the number of days its civilian workers must take off without pay by the end of the fiscal year, according to a Department of Defense release.

That means workers' paychecks

won't suffer as much as they had planned for, which should soften the blow to the local economy.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said the Pentagon found sufficient savings in the final months of the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, to lower the number of furlough days. Officials said last week that they would need to find about \$900 million in savings in order to eliminate five of the 11 furlough days.

There are 650,000 civilian

SEE FURLOUGH PAGE A7

#### BUILDING OUR CITY | DOWNTOWN HOUSING



KUTCHEN & ASSOCIATES

A rendering of the proposed student housing project from the Huger Street view

# Board will hear plans for new student housing

600-bed project would be located at Huger and Blossom streets; it would be part of a boom in housing for Columbia-area students

By CASSIE COPE  
cope@thestate.com

A Columbia developer will present new plans for a nearly 600-bed student housing project at the intersection of Huger and Blossom streets to a Columbia

design review board on Thursday.

Ben Arnold's proposed four- and five-story complex would have a mix of facades, including stucco finish, composite panel, brick veneer and corrugated metal. The plan calls for a park-

ing garage, cafe, pool, fitness center and two internal courtyards.

The project, which would be located at one of Columbia's key entryways, is one of four student

SEE PROJECT PAGE A6

#### THE PROJECT WOULD:

- Be four and five stories at a key city gateway
- Offer nearly 600 beds
- Include a garage, cafe, pool, fitness center and two internal courtyards

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## ESPN's College GameDay starts year at Clemson

Sports, 1B

# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 219 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

# MOX to lay off 500

## Officials: Jobs will be cut by Oct. 1 due to budget slash

BY DERREK ASBERRY  
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

MOX representatives have confirmed a projected 500 layoffs before Oct. 1, which is a response to the proposed federal budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

"As part of a plan to address a federal budget shortfall for fiscal year 2014, a staffing reduction has begun at the MOX project," said representative Bryan Wilkes.

According to Wilkes, employees have been given individual dates over the next 60 days for when their layoffs

will go into effect. All reductions will be complete by the federal government's new fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

The 60-day layoff period mirrors the 60-day period for WARN Act notices which were issued over a period of two months. Warning no-

Defense furloughs decreased. Inside, 9A

tices were issued at the beginning of June.

The 60-day WARN Act notices were issued over a period of two

months to the employees impacted by the federal budget request," Wilkes added. "It allowed them time to make transition plans, and the reductions will track with the same period of time."

Please see MOX, Page 5A

### INSIDE TODAY



Enter your pet in the Cutest pet contest  
Sports, 6B



Boy who serves as parents' best man dies  
Obits, 6A

### AREA DEATHS

Betty Holsenback, Aiken  
Karen D. Smith, North Augusta  
Mildred J. Johnson, Aiken  
Paul S. West, Jr., Aiken  
Terry Toney, Williston  
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER



PHOTO BY BILL BENTSON

Pondering their back-to-school shopping options in Aiken's Target store on Tuesday morning are Laquita Miles, 7, and Salvation Army volunteer Deri Beard.

## Target, Salvation Army give kids shopping spree

BY AMY BANTON  
abanton@aikenstandard.com

Back-to-school shopping is a common annual tradition for many, but for several local children, it was a gift.

More than two dozen children

went on a back-to-school shopping spree thanks to Target and the Salvation Army. On Tuesday morning, 27 students picked out book bags, school supplies and clothes at the Aiken Target.

Target gave each child an \$80 gift card, and the Salvation Army of

Aiken coordinated the event and provided volunteers.

Target executive team leaders Josh Abel and Laci Klothe assisted some of the children as they shopped.

Please see SHOPPING, Page 5A

## Rural Health gets \$100K grant

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Does the Affordable Care Act baffle you? Don't worry. Free help soon will be available locally.

Rural Health Services has received a \$100,613 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to guide residents of Aiken County and surrounding areas through the open enrollment process involved with Obamacare's health insurance marketplace.

Based in Clearwater and the operator of multiple facilities, Rural Health Services has used the funds to hire two outreach and eligibility assistance workers. One of the positions is full time and the other is part time.

The new employees are being trained by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which is a federal agency. Rural Health Services' CEO Carolyn Emanuel-McClain and director of outreach and community services Gail Diggs also are undergoing training.

Rural Health Services anticipates assisting more than 3,000 uninsured individuals with low incomes in their efforts to acquire affordable health insurance.

While Rural Health Services hopes to gain new patients during the enrollment process, people who receive help from its staff won't be required to receive their medical care through the organization's facilities, Diggs said.

The Health Resources and Services Administration awarded more than \$150 million in grants to 1,159 health centers in all 50 states to provide enrollment assistance. Nineteen health centers in South Carolina received funds, but Rural Health Services is the only one located in Aiken County.

Please see GRANT, Page 5A

## Principals named on Thursday will face quick turnaround before school begins

BY ROB NOVIT  
novit@aikenstandard.com

Cathy Ellis formally joined J.D. Lever Elementary School as principal July 1, but had been appointed to that

position before school was out and introduce myself to the faculty and staff."

The Aiken County Board of Education will announce its selection of three new middle school principals at Schofield in Aiken. Paul Knox in

new schools on Monday — the day before teachers officially start the year.

"I do know how they will feel," said Sonya Colvin, starting her third year as principal at Greendale Elementary School. "Every year, I know how

"What do I do first?"

After several years as the principal at then-Busbee Elementary School, King Laurence moved to the School District office in 2004. He was named the associate superintendent





## Fruit and cream

Combination can be a light and refreshing treat **E1**



# Herald-Journal

**WEDNESDAY**

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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY

**5** Things to read today



### Utah connection

Drafting players from the University of Utah has worked out well for the Carolina Panthers over the years, and the newest addition is showing great promise. Defensive tackle Star Lotulelei, above, was selected 14th overall in the April draft to join a pair of former Utah veterans in receiver Steve Smith and offensive lineman Jordan Gross. **PAGE C1**

### Bright readies run

State Sen. Lee Bright is expected to make his candidacy for U.S. Senate official sometime next week. **PAGE C1**

### Best man dies

A terminally ill 2-year-old boy who served as his parents' best man at their wedding last weekend has died, according to his mother's Facebook page and a family friend. **PAGE A3**

### Combat, suicide

Combat appears to have little or no influence on suicide rates among U.S. troops and veterans, according to a military study that challenges the conventional thinking about war's effects on the psyche. **PAGE A5**

### College rankings

South Carolina doesn't have the nation's biggest party school or its most sober student body, but colleges and universities in the state are featured in several other rankings released by the Princeton Review. **PAGE C1**

## National Night Out



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@93U.COM

Above, Denise Weeks, 8, smiles as she has her face painted Tuesday evening by Esther Everett, 13, during the National Night Out event in the Victoria Gardens community in Spartanburg. Below, Johnny O'Shields, with the Spartanburg County Environmental Enforcement Department, cooks hot dogs on a grill Tuesday during the National Night Out event at the Carolina Farm and Wildlife Supply in Pauline.

## Neighbors come out to play, mix with officers

By JENNY ARNOLD  
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

Hot dogs, face painting, fun and camaraderie with law enforcement officers — it was all part of National Night Out for city and county residents Tuesday.

Residents of Victoria Gardens apartments in the city of Spartanburg picked up plates of hot dogs and chips and danced to music provided by a DJ. Children got their faces painted and played bingo, girls got their nails done and boys played basketball.

For KeyJuana Covington-Hathaway, assistant manager for the housing complex, the large crowd was a reason to smile.

Victoria Gardens hasn't participated in National Night Out in recent years, so she didn't know what to expect Tuesday night.



Jammicka Dawkins brought her child to the gathering at the complex.

She said she was having a

onto the face of Denise Weeks, 8. Spiders and a tiger were also seen on the faces of children in the crowd.

## Yemen at center of terror worries

US, Britain evacuate embassy staff due to a threatened attack

By MATTHEW LEE  
The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Yemen was thrust back into the forefront of the international fight against terrorism Tuesday when the U.S. and Britain evacuated embassy staff due to a threatened attack, a suspected U.S. drone killed four alleged members of al-Qaida, and militants shot down a Yemeni army helicopter.

As Westerners fled out of the country, Yemeni authorities launched a wide investigation into the al-Qaida threat to multiple potential targets in the impoverished Arab nation. Security officials said they believed the terror network was seeking retaliation for a U.S.-backed military offensive that has dealt serious setbacks to the terror network's most active branch, including the death earlier this year of its No. 2 leader.

The Yemeni army, meanwhile, surrounded foreign installations, government offices and the airport with tanks and troops in the nation's capital, Sanaa, as well as the strategic Bab al-Mandeb straits at the entrance to the Red Sea in the southern Arabian Peninsula, drawing parallels with security measures following the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden harbor that killed 17 American sailors.

Authorities also set up checkpoints across Sanaa, searching cars and individuals, especially after night fell. Top government officials, along with military and security commanders, were told to stay vigilant and limit their movements.

Although the immediate threat seemed to be focused on Yemen, the U.S. has temporarily shut down 19 diplomatic posts in the Middle East and Africa. A U.S. intelligence official and a Mideast diplomat told The Associated Press that the closures were triggered by the interception of a secret message between al-Qaida chief Ayman al-Zawahiri and Nasser al-Wahishi, the leader of the Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, about plans for a major terror

Weather





# Morning News

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7, 2013

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
Partly cloudy,  
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DETAILS 2A

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## Live to 120? Most people say 'no thanks'

The Associated Press

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Aging America is a joint AP-APME project examining the aging of the baby boomers and the impact that this so-called silver tsunami will have on the communities in which they live.

WASHINGTON — Ninety birthdays maybe, but not 120: Americans hope to stretch out life expectancy another decade or so, but they're ambivalent, even skeptical, about a fountain of youth.

A new poll by the Pew Research Center explores attitudes about a scientific quest: Creating treatments that one day might slow the aging process and let people live decades longer than is normal today.

Scientists already can extend the life span of certain laboratory animals — mice, worms, flies — with

various techniques. They've also tried with monkeys, although the evidence in that species is mixed.

There's no way to know if there ever will be some type of Methuselah pill for humans.

But with the field growing, Pew took the public's pulse and found most Americans wouldn't want a treatment that would let them live to 120. Fifty-six percent said no thanks — although two-thirds expect most other people would want to try such a step, said the report issued Tuesday.

Few expect such a radical idea to become reality, at least by 2050, although most of those surveyed expect other medical advances that could more gradually extend life expectancy, such as better cancer care.

When asked about living to 120 or beyond, the survey found 51 percent of people said that would be bad for

society. They worried about a strain on natural resources, and that such treatments probably would be available only to the rich rather than to everyone.

What is the ideal life span? To most Americans, it's between 79 and 100; the median answer was 90 years, Pew reported.

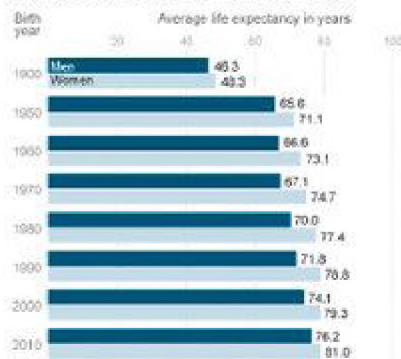
In the U.S., a child born today can expect to live 78.7 years. Women's life expectancy is longer, 81 years, than men's, 76.2.

With a rapidly graying population that is bringing concern about the growth of Alzheimer's disease and an overburdened Medicare system, caution about the idea of one day living even longer might not be surprising.

But longevity pioneer Cynthia Kenyon of the University of California, San Francisco, wonders if the public

### Life expectancy on the rise

Americans born in 2010 can expect to live more than 75 years on average, far longer than those born in 1900.



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

## Diet drug targeted for removal

DMAA linked to serious health issues

BY TRACI BRIDGES

Morning News  
tbridges@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Department of Justice has favorably resolved an action it filed in South Carolina to seize and condemn dietary supplements containing an unsafe food additive.

Commonly known as DMAA, dimethylamylamine is an amphetamine-like stimulant that has been linked to at least 86 reports of illnesses and death.

"Although DMAA is sometimes found in seemingly ordinary, over-the-counter dietary supplements, it has been linked to serious health problems," Stuart E. Delery, acting assistant attorney general for the Civil Division, said. "The FDA and the Department of Justice are dedicated to protecting Americans by getting products containing DMAA off the shelves."

In April, the Food and Drug Administration issued a public advisory saying that the stimulant was an illegal dietary ingredient and could pose serious health risks to consumers. According to health officials, the stimulant can elevate blood pressure, potentially leading to cardiovascular problems, including heart attack, shortness of breath and tightening of the chest. It can be particularly dangerous when used with caffeine. Consumers were warned to stay away from the product, and the sale of DMAA in interstate commerce was made illegal.

Soon after, USPlabs — the company that manufactures the drug — agreed to stop the production of all DMAA products and instead market formulations without the stimulant.

Clemson's Pee Dee research center advances plant tech for the 21st century

BY GAVIN JACKSON

Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Specialists from different agriculture backgrounds presented information on several crops in the fields of the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center when rain began to fall Tuesday, a reminder of the bittersweet, wet growing season farmers have dealt with this year.

The showers did hold off for most of the Pee Dee turf and farm field day, the annual event where members of the agriculture community come together to talk with each other and researchers about new crop research and ongoing projects.

Under a tent in a field, George Askew, associate vice president for Clemson University Public Service Activities, updated the roughly 150 farmers and agriculture industry members on plans to strengthen Clemson's activities in the area with more extension agents and the new

See **FARM**, Page 5A

### FUTURE OF FARMING

## A new crop of ideas



Phil Bauer stands among test plots of Sunn Hemp as he talks with members of the agriculture community about flax production practices at the annual Pee Dee turf and farm field day event at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence on Tuesday. Bauer is with the USDA agriculture research service and the test plots had flax previously planted in them.



Grain sorghum grows in a field as part of a double cropped grain sorghum management study underway at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center. Studies like these help researchers find which varieties would be the most beneficial to farmers.

## Low tax base limits Timmons ville finances

BY GAVIN JACKSON

Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

Wanda Charping, the town's financial consultant, presented a breakdown to council on the

\$500,000, that is your cost," Charping said. "So on (an average of) \$78 a year from ev-

up that a little higher than \$78 a year."

The total property tax collect-





CMYK



Odd

## HIGH ON FLAVOR



THREE TAKES  
ON BONELESS  
CHICKEN  
BREASTS  
Taste, A10



## TIGER, PHIL ... AT OAK HILL

MAJOR BATTLE LOOMS  
SPORTS PREVIEW, B4

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2013

# The Times and Democrat

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3 SECTIONS, 24 PAGES • VOL. 132 • NO. 219

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



The praise dances team Eden's Angels perform at the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office countywide National Night Out at the Prince of Orange Mall on Tuesday. See our collection of photos from the National Night Out events at [TheTandD.com/gallery](http://TheTandD.com/gallery)

## Connor now considering Senate run

T&D Staff Report

Orangeburg attorney, author and Afghanistan war veteran Bill Connor said Tuesday he is considering a run against incumbent U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham.

"Yes, I am considering this but I am currently on active military duty orders and I can't say anything more about politics," Connor said.

"When I am back in the state and off orders, I will talk more about it," he said.

Connor said there are "different reasons" he's considering challenging Graham, a fellow Republican.

Two other Republicans have already announced their intention to run against Graham in the 2014 primary: Anderson businessman Richard Cash and Charleston businesswoman Nancy Mace. Also, state Sen. Lee Bright of Roebuck has brought a campaign website online as he considers a Republican primary challenge against Graham.

Graham was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2002 after Strom Thurmond stepped aside.

Connor's announcement that he is considering a bid for the U.S. Senate comes three months after he expressed a desire to run for lieutenant governor a second time.

In May, Connor told The Times and Democrat he was considering a run for lieutenant governor because he believes Americans will elect a Republican president in 2016 who will then name Gov. Nikki Haley to a national post.

He said he would want to be in that "second in command" position to succeed Haley should she move into a federal post.

Connor ran for lieutenant governor in 2010, but lost the runoff for the Republican nomination to Ken Ard.

Ard went on to become lieutenant governor, but resigned after pleading guilty to campaign fraud. Glenn McConnell then gave up his powerful position as S.C. Senate president pro tem and succeeded Ard.

Connor is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and was at one time the senior U.S. military adviser in Afghanistan's Helmand Province, and has written a book about his military experiences.

Connor is a partner in the Orangeburg law firm of Hogen & Connor. He is the Sixth Congressional District Republican Party chairman and is also chairman of the board of Orangeburg Christian Academy.

■ The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Neighbors, law enforcement stand together against crime

By RICHARD WALKER  
T&D Staff Writer

People getting to know their neighbors and establishing good relationships with their local law enforcement officers are among the objectives of the annual National Night Out celebrations aimed at reducing crime in America's communities.

In fact, today's world of high-tech wireless communication could take a lesson from the past. There's something to be said for neighbors with open doors who know the names of the local children and have frequent face-to-face conversations with each other rather than via text messages.

"When I lived here, you could borrow (a) cup of sugar," said Orangeburg native Brenda G. Jenkins, who moved away after

her marriage.

Jenkins visits family in Orangeburg half a dozen times a year. Things have changed, she said. Family restaurants have closed, businesses have moved away and new faces are in the old neighborhoods.

Instead of allowing the days of having neighbors who were as close as family become just a memory, Orangeburg residents are using their community associations and Tuesday's National Night Out celebrations to maintain those ties.

"It's a safety net when you do the Night Out," Jenkins said. "When you notice something wrong, you bring it to the attention of the other neighbors."

John Graves said there was a time when

See NIGHT, A6



CHRISTOPHER HUFF/T&D

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Engineer Jonathan Winningham gives balloons to, from left, Mekhi and Rodricka Youmans during DPS's National Night Out block party midday Tuesday at Orangeburg Memorial Plaza.

District 5 reaching out

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FAITH  
MATTERS

By Jamie H. Wilson

Prayer really  
is allowed for  
our students

For most students in Sumter, school starts back in the next two weeks, which means I won't have to deal with this kid in my neighborhood who keeps jumping out in front of my car and taunting me when I drive down the street. I don't know why he does this or if he does this to anyone else, but I'm hoping the regular school schedule will eliminate this problem.

As I cover a lot of local school events for the newspaper, I've been pleasantly surprised with the number of teachers and school employees who say they regularly pray for their students.

I'm also greatly encouraged by the local church and religious organizations that execute prayer walks for area schools or provide meals for teachers on teacher workdays. In light of the recent unrest over Sumter's education administration,

SEE FAITH MATTERS, PAGE A6

National Night  
Out focuses on  
crime preventionBY BRISTOW MARCHANT  
bmarchant@theitem.com

Neighbors came together across the Sumter area and the nation Tuesday evening, hoping to send a message to anyone thinking of committing a crime that their actions won't go unnoticed.

Community groups and law-enforcement agencies joined forces for the annual National Night Out. The event, organized around neighborhood watch groups across the country, seeks to put the focus on preventing crime in the community.

Officials in Sumter and Clarendon counties organized their own official events, and neighborhood groups held dozens of events in

## District realigns staff

BY BRADEN BUNCH  
bbunch@theitem.com

The Sumter School District Board of Trustees approved several personnel changes suggested by interim superintendent Frank Baker at its specially called meeting Tuesday night. They just haven't told the public what they are yet.

After a two-hour executive session to discuss the first official recommendations Baker has made as the new district head, the trustees

SEE CHANGES, PAGE A8

Standards-based report cards to  
only be used for kindergartnersBY BRADEN BUNCH  
bbunch@theitem.com

The standards-based report card system initiated last year for Sumter School District students up until second grade has been scaled back to only being

used on kindergarten reports.

The change, confirmed by Interim Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker on Tuesday, marks the fourth revision to the fledgling program in less

SEE REPORT CARDS, PAGE A8

## Blaze damages storage unit



PHOTOS BY BRADEN BUNCH / THE ITEM

Firefighters respond to the blaze at Public Storage, 1277 Camden Highway, U.S. 521, late Monday night. Investigators said the fire destroyed about 50 storage units and that the cause was unknown.

## Family briefly trapped inside gates of facility

BY BRADEN BUNCH  
bbunch@theitem.com

A late Monday night fire at a self-storage business on Camden Highway next to the U.S. 76/378 overpass destroyed a large portion of one of the buildings and briefly trapped a few customers inside the gates of the business.

Flames from Public Storage, located at 1277 Camden Highway/U.S. 521, could easily be seen shooting into the night sky by traffic crossing the recently renovated U.S. 76/378 bridge. At the same time, Ron Ingram and his family were at the storage facility, placing items for the first time in a newly rented stall, when



burn because it was so small at first, but I walked around the corner, and it got bigger and bigger," Ingram said. "The fire was coming out of the

p.m. Monday and tried to leave the facility. However, with the fire developing in the B-C storage building between them and the after-hours access gate, they were briefly trapped inside the complex. They pulled up to one of the other gates and remained in their truck until a rescue worker could cut the chains holding the gate shut, Ingram said. They were far enough away from the flames, Ingram said, that they did not feel they were in danger.

While firefighters with the Sumter Fire Department had the blaze under control, they were still battling the fire well past midnight. Southbound traffic along U.S. 521 was being diverted until about 12:30



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