

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 10/8/2013 9:17:46 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Tuesday, October 8, 2013

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, October 8, 2013

SUSPICIOUS BAG LEADS TO ROADS CLOSING



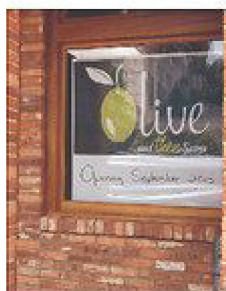
Herald-Journal

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2013
SPARTANBURG, S.C.
50 cents

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Olive brings flavor

Sandy Burn hopes to bring some flavor to downtown with her new business venture. Burn, an entrepreneur from Greenville, has opened the doors to Olive and then some in a 2,300-square-foot space at 124 Magnolia St. **PAGE D1**

Raid in Somalia

The man U.S. Navy SEALs tried to take down in Somalia over the weekend was a Kenyan who had plotted to attack his country's parliament building and the United Nations headquarters in Nairobi, according to a Kenyan government intelligence report. **PAGE A3**

Supreme Court

In its first major campaign finance case since the Citizens United ruling in 2010, the Supreme Court is considering whether to undo some limits on contributions from the biggest individual givers to political campaigns. **PAGE A6**

Dorman's go-to guy

Dorman quarterback Grayland Fowler knows if he throws the ball in J.J. Arcega-Whiteside's area that it's going to end up a completion. "He catches everything," Fowler said. **PAGE B1**

Man gets 20 years

A man charged with murdering a Woodruff resident pleaded guilty Monday to the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter. **PAGE C1**

BUDGET BATTLE

Default threat takes center stage

Obama, Congress shift attention to looming deadline

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A possible national default loomed closer on Monday as the partial govern-

ment shutdown lingered, rattling markets in the U.S. and overseas. A gridlocked Congress betrayed little or no urgency toward resolving either of the threats.

Stocks got a case of the jitters on Wall Street, and halfway around the world China stressed the importance for the international economy of raising the U.S. debt limit.

"Safeguarding the debt is of vital importance to the economy of the U.S. and the world," Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao said, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. China holds \$1.277 trillion in U.S. Treasury bonds, second only to Japan.

At home, the political rhetoric was unchanged — and generally uncompromising — while a new

poll suggested Republicans are paying a heavier price than Democrats for the deadlock.

President Barack Obama said the House should vote immediately on ending the partial closure of the federal establishment. He accused House Speaker John Boehner of refusing to permit the necessary

◆ SEE BUDGET PAGE A5

Clouds give way for a pretty 'Fair' opening



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



Riannah Hardy, 5, of Moore reacts to a "fake" snake prize at the fair. The 2013 Piedmont Interstate Fair opened at the Spartanburg Fairgrounds on Monday and will run through Sunday. Below, Madison Johnson, 7, of Inman reacts to a ride. For a photo gallery of activities at the fair, visit GoUpstate.com.

Tasty treats, screaming-fun rides fuel festival's first day

By JENNY ARNOLD
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

The afternoon clouds parted, and area residents were able to enjoy sausage dogs, funnel cakes, games and rides during the first day of the Piedmont Interstate Fair Monday.

A new ride for this year is the Vertigo, a swing-like ride that spins riders high into the air. Screams of delight could be heard as Lindsey Burrell, 14, Bryant Burns, 8, and Sierra Brown, 14, took a spin.

"I did it," Sierra said after the ride returned to earth. "As long as you don't look down, it's fine."

Although younger than the two girls, Bryant was game for any ride, no matter how intimidating it looked. The trip already had ridden the



ALEX C. HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM
Gov. Nikki Haley addressed the Upstate business community during a luncheon at the Piedmont Club in Spartanburg on Monday.

Haley says economic growth on a roll in SC

By FELICIA KITZMILLER
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Gov. Nikki Haley touted economic growth during a luncheon at the Piedmont Club with the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce on Monday and urged support for several initiatives.

During her tenure, Haley said 38,500 jobs have been created across South Carolina, and new positions were announced in every county except McCormick.

South Carolina is the No. 1 tire producer in the country because of Michelin, Bridgestone and Continental Tire, and is poised to become the No. 1 BMW manufacturer in the world, Haley said.

"South Carolina has become the 'it' state," Haley said.

Haley lauded positive attitudes, cooperation and strong customer service for the state's growth. Enhanced incentives for locating businesses in rural counties have spread the wealth of job creation and



SPORTS, 1B SITTING NOT HURTING CLOWNEY



LIFESTYLE, 1C Yoga aiding cancer patients

The Greenville News

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TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

INSIDE

Haley says she's focusing on maintaining jobless benefits, food aid, 3A

FINAL EDITION

GOP seeks concessions for deal

No break in budget standoff
as shutdown enters week 2

By Susan Davis
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Washington got no closer to ending the government shutdown, which entered its second week Monday, as Democrats remained unmoved by refocused GOP efforts to reach a broader budget deal.

"I'd reissue my friendly challenge to Speaker Boehner: Just put it on the floor," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., told CNN's "New Day," referring to a stopgap bill that would reopen the government without any strings attached.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, seeks to end the shutdown and raise the \$16.7 trillion federal debt ceiling as part of one budget negotiation in which he hopes to extract some concessions from Democrats on deficit reductions. The Treasury Department has said the deadline for raising the debt ceiling is Oct. 17.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, a leading voice in the shutdown debate for his advocacy of ending President Barack Obama's health care law, told CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday that a debt ceiling package should include structural changes to reduce spending, no new taxes, and provisions to "mitigate the



Normally packed with visitors and tourists, the U.S. Capitol Rotunda is nearly empty as the federal government's partial shutdown enters a second week Monday. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

See SHUTDOWN, Page 6A



The family of Lilia Blandin react in court Monday as Avery Blandin pleads guilty in Lilia's slaying. From left are sister Juana Hamby, mother, Madel Rivera, and brother Jorge Vasquez. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

Man gets 35 years, family wanted life

Husband stabbed wife at
bank inside Walmart

By Nathaniel Cary
Staff Writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

Madel Rivera clutched a framed portrait of her daughter, Lilia Blandin, and gazed at it as she wiped tears from her eyes.

Rivera, family members and friends emerged from the courtroom inside the Greenville County Courthouse and held one another.



ON THE WEB

Watch as Avery Blandin pleads guilty to murder in a video at GreenvilleOnline.com.

Family, friends and Blandin's co-workers from her job at the Woodforest Bank stood together during court proceedings as the family attorney, Don Farnsworth Jr., spoke of the couple's history of domestic violence, including two pending cases at the time of Blandin's death.

"Obviously, the family is more than a little disappointed in the sen-

City leaders consider nonpartisan ballot

Move would eliminate
the need for primary

By Anna Lee
Staff writer
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Two Greenville City Council seats up for re-election won't be on the ballot come November.

Since the officeholders ran unopposed, they were automatically declared winners — not unusual in a city that didn't hold a municipal general election two years ago.

Faced with low voter turnout and a dwindling pool of candidates, Greenville city officials now are exploring the move to a nonpartisan system, rolling out a timetable that would start with public meetings in January and a full council vote by early March.

The switch would eliminate the need for a primary, shorten the campaign window from six months to 75 days and, some council members believe, attract more qualified office seekers.

"You can't vote straight party ticket, so the challenge is for the candidate to make themselves and their issues very well known," said Councilwoman Amy Ryberg Doyle, who ran unopposed in 2011.

Of the 270 municipalities in South Carolina, Greenville is one of several that has partisan elections and is the largest city of that group, which includes Aiken, Florence, Georgetown, North Augusta, New Ellington, Ridge Spring and Olar.

With a nonpartisan system, candidates would only need to fill out an application and submit a filing fee, City Attorney Ron McKinney said, skipping the step that requires office seekers to be endorsed by their respective parties.

Mayor Pro Tem David Sudduth,



Serena will be back to defend Family Circle Cup title
SPORTS, C1



The Post and Courier

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TUESDAY, October 8, 2013

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

3 accused in local soldier's stabbing death

Summerville victim described as good kid, hardworking and disciplined

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

Tevin Geike graduated early from Stall High School so he could follow in the footsteps of family members and join the Army to serve his country.

Now, three fellow soldiers from

the same Washington State military base where Geike was stationed are accused of killing the 20-year-old Summerville man during a random confrontation on the street Saturday.

The Lakewood Police Department is still investigating a motive for the stabbing that claimed

Geike's life, but authorities said it no longer appears that race was a factor in the killing, as early reports suggested.

Arrested and booked for murder are soldiers Jeremiah D. Hill, 23, of Chicago, who joined the Army this April; Cedarius L. Johnson, 21, of Tyler, Texas, who joined in

2012 and served in Afghanistan; and Ajont Rouse, 21, of Biddeford, Maine, who joined in 2011 and also served in Afghanistan.

Investigators described Hill as the "main suspect" in the case. The men, who were booked Monday into the Pierce County

jail, were stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChesney, the same installation where Geike was assigned to a combat aviation unit, authorities said.

Two other suspects, also soldiers stationed at the base, are said to be

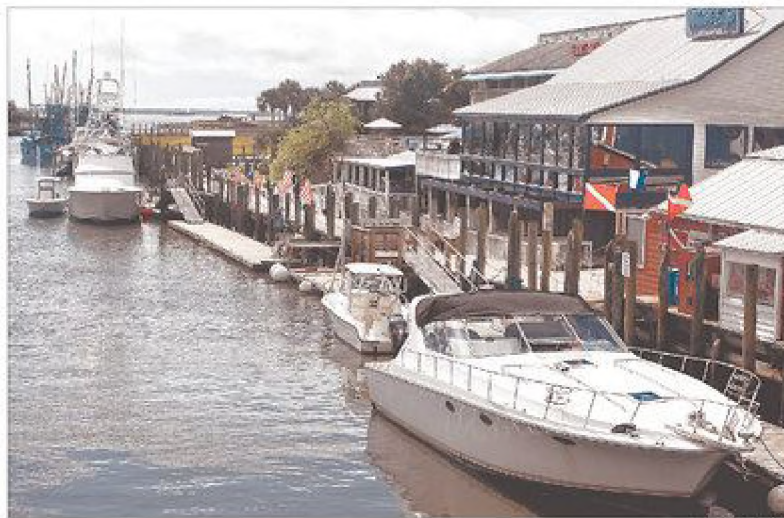


Tevin Geike was fatally stabbed near Seattle.

Please see **SOLDIER**, Page A4

Public to get more access to Shem Creek

Deals with Mt. Pleasant would add another boardwalk, parking



Mount Pleasant appears to be poised to pass an agreement that will open the private boardwalk on the northwestern side of Shem Creek for public use and will tie the boardwalk into the Shem Creek Park boardwalk.

BY ROBERT REJIRE
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MOUNT PLEASANT — Town Council seems certain to approve two new deals with several private property owners that promise to make Shem Creek an even more bustling place.

The first agreement is between the town and a few property owners along the northwestern side of Shem Creek.

It would open that existing private boardwalk to the public — providing a new pedestrian link between Coleman Boulevard and the town's new Shem Creek Park — in exchange for the town's help rebuilding and maintaining the privately owned boardwalk.

The second is another public-private arrangement that would provide more public parking on the other side of the creek.

A private developer plans to build

a new office building at Church and Mill streets, and under this agreement it would build a larger garage in exchange for about \$2.77 million from the town over the next 15 years.

Councilwoman Thomasena Stokes-Marshall said parking is becoming a greater problem around Shem Creek, adding, "If we don't have sufficient parking there, it's

Please see **CRUISE**, Page A4

Poll

Is it a good idea to expand access to Shem Creek? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

If you go

Mount Pleasant Town Council meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday in its chambers, 100 Ann Edwards Blvd.

Graham: Ships not jails for terrorists

Says suspect should be held at Gitmo Bay

BY SCHUYLER KROFF
skroff@postandcourier.com

South Carolina U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham says America's Navy ships aren't meant to be holding sites for terrorists.

Two days after the alleged mastermind in the bombings of U.S. embassies was snatched from a car in Libya, Graham said terror suspect Abu Anas al-Libi should not be housed indefinitely on a Navy vessel ahead of his eventual return to the U.S.

"I believe the most responsible course of action would be to hold him as an enemy combatant at Guantanamo Bay for intelligence-gathering purposes," Graham, R-S.C., said.

"U.S. Navy ships were never intended to be confinement and interrogation facilities in the war on terror," he added.

Al-Libi, a ranking al-Qaeda operative, was taken from a car in the Libyan capital of Tripoli by U.S. commandos Saturday as part of his 2000 federal indictment for the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

Media reports say al-Libi is being held on board the U.S.S. San Antonio in the Mediterranean Sea. The Pentagon says his confinement status is considered legal "under the law of war in a secure location outside of Libya."

Graham's position against the use of ships as jails runs counter to a government strategy that previously utilized shipboard confinement as a first step ahead of criminal prosecution. The



Graham

Please see **GRAM**, Page A4

Schools want lawmakers' help with sales-tax dilemma

Without law change, district can't seek extension until 2016

BY DIETTE COURREGÉ CASEY
dcourreg@postandcourier.com

Charleston County school leaders need lawmakers' help if they want to ask voters in November 2014 to extend

the 1 percent sales tax for school building construction.

School district officials have been eyeing next year's general election as ripe for putting the referendum on voters' ballots, but Mike Bobby, the

district's chief of finance and operations, said Monday that can't happen until November 2016 unless state law is changed.

The law doesn't allow the school district to make that request of vot-

ers until two years before the tax ends. That means they couldn't put the issue on voters' ballots until December 2014, which would be a month too late for the November general election. If nothing changes, the district would be forced to wait until November 2016 to request that the sales tax be extended, and that would delay some construc-

tion projects.

"We would like to seek help in changing the statute that would allow us to be on the ballot earlier," Bobby said. The Charleston County School Board's audit and finance committee signed off Monday on the district

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A4



Shower's High 68, Low 59. Complete 5-day forecast, B8

Bridge...B7 Editorials...A8 Citations...B4 Classifieds...G6 Your Health...D1 The South...B1 Comics...D67 Horoscope...D7 Sports...C1 Crossword...C10,36 Movies...D5 Television...D8

Charleston Deals today Haagen-Dazs Pay \$5 for \$10 of Haagen-Dazs ice cream. See A2



FOOTBALL FAMILY: Spurrier's grandson making his own way at Hammond. **B1**

The State

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

CLOWNEY DEBATE

National sports media weigh in on Jadeveon's future. **B1**

2,000 S.C. defense workers back on job

Civilian defense employees return after Congress passes bill continuing pay during shutdown

By JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

Almost 2,000 civilian workers at South Carolina's military bases returned to work Monday. The workers had been furloughed and sent home without

pay last week by the still-ongoing partial shutdown of the federal government.

"It's is very good to be back at work," said Maj. Cindi King with the S.C. National Guard, which had about 800 employees on furlough last week. "All of us are hon-

INSIDE
Government shutdown hits farmers hard. **Page B6**

ored to serve the state of South Carolina and our nation. It's why we put on the uniform and an-

swered the call to serve."

The shutdown, which required federal employees deemed non-essential to go on furlough, started last Tuesday after the U.S. Congress failed to agree on a spending plan.

Thousands of civilian defense

employees across South Carolina were sent home. But many returned to work Monday after Congress passed a bill, signed by the president, that continues pay and benefits for many in the mil-

SEE **BACK ON JOB** PAGE **A4**

HEALTH INSURANCE

ACA enrollment in S.C. sputtering

A week into the program's launch, problems persist

By JOEY HOLLEMAN
jholleman@thestate.com

The new Health Insurance Marketplace has stumbled out of the starting gate, with seven days of performance ranging from slow service to no service on the healthcare.gov website.

But the people who are trying to help people sign up for health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act say the start isn't as important as the finish in what they see as a marathon.

"We are still hearing that it is difficult to get on the website, so I think that until that glitch is fixed we will not have a lot of take-up," said Sue Berkowitz, director of the S.C. Appleseed Legal Justice Center. "I actually think that the sheer volume of people looking

THE ROLLOUT

■ The national insurance industry is calling for patience.
■ Technology experts say the problems are probably due to a combination of factors: unexpectedly high demand, as well as possible software flaws. White House officials suggest that high demand is the top problem.

■ For more on the ACA in S.C., visit thestate.com/healthysc.

for information and trying to get onto the site is a testament as to how many people are looking for help with getting health care coverage."

Cooperative Ministries

SEE **INSURE** PAGE **A4**



Gloria Black holds the bed rail that was on her mother's bed. A coroner's report says her mother rolled over, compressing her neck on the rail.

Bed rails pose deadly hazard to frail, elderly

... safety rail to protect her

STATE MUSEUM



The State Museum is holding a contest to name its signature giant shark, Josh Sizemore.

Player of the Week

Rebels' quarterback
Jauveer Hammond | 1B



Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, October 8, 2013

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John Felak, 55, takes off during a race held at South Aiken High School on Friday during the Thoroughbred Senior Games Sports Classic. Also pictured, from left, are Debbie Rossetti, Ann Carter, Loretta Beckner and Sharon McCracken.

Senior athletes YOUNG AT HEART

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

Several athletes hit the track fields and courts to prove their endurance and sporting skills during the inaugural Thoroughbred Senior Sports Classic.

Residents ages 50 and older competed in a variety of events including basketball, softball throw, pickleball, table tennis and several track and field events. The games were held all around the county at different recreation centers and other facilities starting in late September.

This is the first year the North Augusta Sports Commission, North Augusta Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services, City of Aiken and Aiken County parks, recreation and tourism departments have partnered together to offer this event sponsored by Daybreak Adult Care Services Inc.

John Felak, Classic committee chair and program coordinator for the City of North Augusta recreation department, participated in the games himself. Close to 70 people signed up, and Felak said the City was pleased by the turnout.

"Just because you're age 50 and up doesn't mean you can't be athletic, competitive and enjoy sports," Felak said.

Ann Carter, 71, has competed and won medals in both state and national senior sport events. Carter started running as child, competing in her

COMING WEDNESDAY



What are the secrets of those 100 and older?

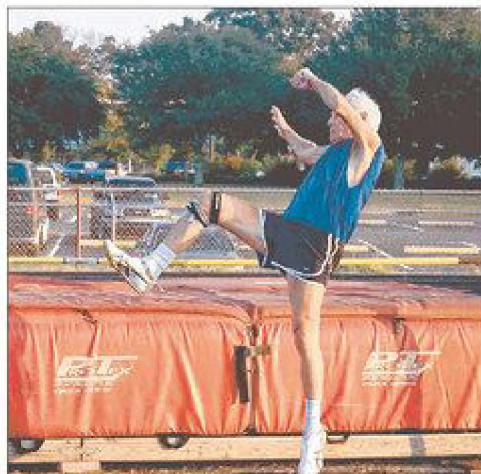
Find out — Meet three centenarians in Aiken
Wednesday

first race in Southampton, England, at the age of 8. She took a hiatus in competing but got back into it in her 40s. Her times were only five seconds slower than from when she was 18, so she kept on running.

Carter said with the rising obesity rates across the country, the emphasis on exercise is important. She added that events such as the Senior Sports Classic is a great way to get people moving, and nobody should be intimidated by a little competition.

"Just go out and try," Carter said.

Please see SENIORS, Page 5A



Jack Sayers, 74, participates in the high jump on Friday at South Aiken High School.



Rock Slaughter zips down the South Aiken High School track on Friday during the Thoroughbred Senior Games Sports Classic.



Ann Carter, 71, takes a leap during the long jump competition held during the Thoroughbred Senior Games Sports Classic on Friday at South Aiken High School.

ARRESTED:

What to expect during the trial

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Editor's note: This is the sixth story in an occasional series on understanding the criminal justice system.

After getting arrested, booked into jail, bonding out, getting an attorney and consulting with him, it's finally time for a defendant's case to go before a jury of 12 of his or her peers (Cue the "Law & Order" "duh-duh").

After the attorneys for each side make their pre-trial motions, it's time to select a jury. According to Assistant Solicitor Beth Ann Young of the Second Circuit Solicitor's Office, the pool of 70 or so potential jurors are brought into the courtroom to be qualified by the judge.

Jury selection

First, there is a roll call, during which potential jurors stand and say their names, where they work, their marital statuses and where their spouse works. Young said. The attorneys for both sides are paying attention the whole time.

The judge then qualifies the potential jurors by asking them questions, such as if they are related to someone in law enforcement or if they have been convicted of a crime. Some people are disqualified from jury duty, while others are exempt and transferred to another court date.

The attorney for each side gets a certain number of "strikes" while seating the jury, with the state having five and the defendant typically having five or 10.

"They can be struck for no reason at all," Young said.

If each attorney approves a potential juror, he or she is seated in the jury box. This continues until there are 12 jurors and usually one or two alternates.

The jurors are sent to the jury room for a short period. After they are brought back, they are sworn in; the judge makes some introductory remarks; and the trial begins.

Opening statements

During opening statements, each attorney tells the jurors what they can expect from the trial, with the prosecution always going first.

Please see TRIAL, Page 5A

AREA DEATHS

Thelma Barton Sims, Warrenville
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



Debt limit overtaking shutdown as focus

BY DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A possible national default loomed closer on Monday as the partial government shutdown lingered, rattling markets in the U.S. and overseas. A gridlocked Congress between little or no

Wall Street, and halfway around the world China, stressed the importance for the international economy of raising the U.S. debt limit.

"Safeguarding the debt is of vital importance to the economy of the U.S. and the world," Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao said, according to the official Xinhua News

INSIDE
Budget fight offers crash course on Congress, 8A

At home, the political rhetoric was unchanged — and generally uncompromising — while a new poll suggested Republicans are expected

House should vote immediately on ending the partial closure of the federal establishment. He accused House Speaker John Boehner of refusing to permit the necessary legislation to come to the floor because he "doesn't apparently want to see the ... shutdown end at the moment, unless he's able to extract concessions that don't have



CLARENDON SUN
Trick-or-treat and get your sweets
on Main Street in Manning **B1**

Church receives
2,000-plus pumpkins
for fundraiser
A3

The Item

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VOL. 118, NO. 300 WWW.THEITEM.COM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

Halloween killing trial begins

Man accused in 2008 shooting faces murder, assault charges

Attorney John D. Clark, left, confers with his client, Quentin Patrick, on Monday at the Sumter County Judicial Center.

ROBERT J. BAKER / THE ITEM



BY ROBERT J. BAKER
rbaker@theitem.com

Opening arguments are scheduled to begin today in the trial of a 27-year-old man accused of shooting and killing a 12-year-old boy on Halloween night nearly five years ago.

A jury of 10 women and two men will begin hearing the trial of Quentin P. Patrick

at the Sumter County Judicial Center about 9:30 a.m. for the shooting that left Tony "T.J." Darri-saw dead and his 9-year-old brother, Ahmadre, and his father, Freddie Grinnell, injured.

Patrick faces charges of murder, two counts of assault and battery with intent to kill



PATRICK

and one count of assault with intent to kill in the shooting incident. An additional charge of manufacturing crack cocaine is also before Patrick, but will not be heard this week.

During a motions hearing on Monday, defense attorney John D. Clark decided not to raise a motion to change

SEE PATRICK, PAGE A8

FARMTASTIC FRIDAY AT ALICE DRIVE ELEMENTARY

RIGHT: Marley Gillespie, kindergartner at Alice Drive Elementary School, pets Wilbur the pig while Tricia Lemoges holds him. The children also got the chance to see a hen during Farmtastic Friday.



PHOTOS BY JADE ANDERSON / THE ITEM



ABOVE: Trey Welborn, a kindergartner at Alice Drive Elementary, balances his eggs during a race Friday. Every year, the kindergarten hall puts on activities to help children learn about life on the farm.



RIGHT: Katie Holloway, kindergartner teacher at Alice Drive Elementary,

Baker wants to retain post

Interim superintendent also talks teacher accountability

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

Dr. Frank Baker, the current interim superintendent of Sumter School District, said he would like to see his position become permanent.

"I'm ready to be the superintendent and move forward," Baker said, adding, however, that there have not been any formal discussions between himself and the district's board of trustees along those lines.

"I don't know how long I'm going to be with them, it (his current position) is interim, but if they offer it to me, I'm ready to accept it," Baker said after making a presentation to the Sumter Rotary Club on Monday.

The former superintendent of Sumter School District 2, Baker was first hired to the lead the local school district in July, after the

SEE BAKER, PAGE A10



BRADEN BUNCH / THE ITEM

Interim Sumter School District Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker, left, chats with Sumter County Clerk of Court Jamie



COMING ALONG
Tigers' defense developing an identity of its own. C1

TASTE/TRAVEL: Travel tips for a budget-friendly road trip. B1

WORLD | NATION: Debt limit overtaking shutdown as U.S. crisis focus. D1

Hotel cost taxpayers \$3M, not \$2M

BY NORMAN CANNADA
AND CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — While Oconee County will get a return on its \$2 million in grant and tax credit investments into a new Seneca hotel, the amount of return amounts to an average of about \$12,000 per year in the next 20 years, according to a cost benefit analysis of the project provided by County Administrator Scott Moulder.

FOR MORE

For a related

editorial, turn to page A4. To read another hotel owner's reaction to the investment in Hampton Inn, turn to page A6.



FULL PHOTO

The Hampton Inn, which opened last month, received a total of \$3 million in grants and tax credits for its \$12 million project.

estimates the county will receive a total of \$240,964 over 20 years. Moulder said that figure is the amount it would be worth today.

County Council voted in June 2012 to give a \$1 million grant to the City of Seneca for the Hampton Inn project. Seneca

added another \$1 million grant that the developer of the project could draw from during the course of the nearly one year of construction. The hotel opened late last month.

In addition, County Council also approved another \$1 million in tax credits over the next 20 years, meaning that Seneca Hospitality, which operates the hotel, will deduct \$50,000 off its tax bill for 20 years.

Estimates are that the \$12 million hotel will owe \$147,096 in taxes in its first year, minus the \$50,000 credit, for a total tax bill of \$97,096 in the first year.

Moulder said he believes the hotel will bring additional benefits to the local area that go

SEE HOTEL, PAGE A6

• May 1, 2012

County Council approves first reading of ordinance in title only for a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement between the county and "Project Star."

• June 25, 2012

After an hour in executive session, council members voted to enter into a negotiated fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement and provide a \$1 million grant to the City of Seneca for "Project Star."

• Sept. 3, 2013

After an hour in executive session, council members voted to enter into a negotiated fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement and provide a \$1 million grant to the City of Seneca for "Project Star."

• Sept. 17, 2013

Third and final reading of the ordinance is approved by County Council.

Oconee residents learn about health care options

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — While many in Oconee County may see more negative than positive when they hear about the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, Walhalla resident Robbie McKee sees it as a life-changing opportunity.

"I'm disabled and I have to wait a year for Medicaid," McKee said. "I'm needing surgery right now and I've got to wait a year and put up with a lot of pain on heavy narcotics that surgery could get me off of."

McKee was among the 80 residents who came to the Gignilliat Center in Seneca for an informational meeting about the new health care law Monday night. He was one of the ones who signed up for an appointment to come back today to learn more and sign up for health insurance.

"I want to learn as much as I can, because no one knows much about it," he said. "There's so many people against it, but they

'We need to educate ourselves before we hate something.'

Robbie McKee
Walhalla resident

don't know nothing about it. We need to educate ourselves before we hate something."

Rick Curtis of Seneca said the meeting left him "confused but hopeful."

"My fear is that with all the confusion amongst the agencies, this year is going to be a nightmare," he said. "My concern is the risks for this first year."

Jeanne Ward, president and chief executive officer of Oconee Medical Center, said she was "impressed" with the turnout for the meeting.

SEE OPTIONS, PAGE A3



CARLIN HERRINGTON | THE JOURNAL

Holdin' on

Reactions vary on the centrifugal "Super Round-Up" Saturday night at the Foothills Heritage Fair. The fair brought families from all over the Upstate to Oconee County and ended on Saturday.

Walhalla streetscape workshop draws interest

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Main Street business owners are eager to learn more details about the city's downtown streetscape plans.

They got to do so today during a community workshop and meeting with representatives of the architectural and engineering

firm handling the project.

Landscape architects and civil engineers from SeamonWhiteside will be dropping by businesses located within the project's perimeter that includes both sidewalks from S. Catherine to N. Tugaloo streets. SeamonWhiteside is looking for feedback from stakeholders and the public to explore ways of improving the project, and

making it more safe and useable for the community.

SeamonWhiteside will canvass the project area as part of its workshop from noon to 5 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., SeamonWhiteside will present their findings and conceptual drawings to the public at 123 E. Main St. The meeting

SEE WALHALLA, PAGE A5



Helping hands make a difference

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Dozens of volunteers answered the

their world upside down. The woman, who asked that she not be identified, called 911 the night of Aug. 6. Her property, off

the time the Red Cross arrived to take the mom and her children to a hotel for the night, about three inches of water covered

Beth Marett, emergency services specialist for the local Red Cross, said she got a call from Oconee County Emergency Ser-



Morning News

TUESDAY OCTOBER 8, 2013

TODAY'S WEATHER

Cooler with rain and a storm, high 68, low 57

DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Florence police chief retires, stays with city

As community relations commander, Shells will lead neighborhood improvement efforts

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
and LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN
Morning News
lbruchanan@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — In line with the city of Florence's push to focus on redevelopment and revitalization of neighborhoods, City Manager Drew Griffin announced Monday that police Chief Anson Shells has retired and accepted

a new position within the police department as community relations commander.

The new role will have Shells working with the police department's Community Action Team — a group of six officers — and leading the way for the city's neighborhood initiative.

In his 12 years as chief, Shells has worked hard to strengthen the relationship between the

police department and the community, building trust and cooperation on both sides — a fact that makes him ideal for the city council's push to improve the look, feel and perception of the city's neighborhoods.

As community relations commander Shells, 51, will have the opportunity to build on his work and become a more visible face to the community.

"They can expect to see more of me," Shells said. "This role will

put me out in the community meeting face to face with members of the community."

"People can expect me to create programs that will work in the interest of redeveloping community and downtown, and I'm going to expect the community to come up with their own ideas about things. We should be able to

work together to accomplish a lot. The fact is, I'm going to be a permanent presence, so more of me is what they can expect."

Former deputy chief and current police administrator Allen Heidler will serve in Shells' place while Griffin conducts a search for a chief. Griffin said the search will not be rushed, because Heidler is more than capable, and Shells will still be with the department.

"The expectation is that we

See **POLICE**, Page 3A



ELLEN MEDER/MORNING NEWS
Dr. Ruth Wittmann-Price, recently named as a fellow in the National League for Nursing's Academy of Nursing Education, sits with several of the nursing education books she has co-written.

FMU nursing chair earns high honor

Wittmann-Price busy expanding nursing department, writing books

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News

FLORENCE — Francis Marion University's nursing department chair has been given one of the nation's most prestigious honors for a nurse educator.

Last month Dr. Ruth Wittmann-Price was inducted as a fellow in the National League for Nursing's Academy of Nursing Education at its annual education summit in Washington, D.C.

Though Wittman-Price has a calendar and workload as busy as her business card — she has letters behind her name denoting her doctorate, registered nurse status, community nurse specialist status and certified nurse educator status — she said it was nice to take a moment to celebrate the accomplishment.

"I'm very happy and humbled that I got put in there and very thankful be-

DELAINE PLEADS GUILTY



Defendant Fonnelle Travis Delaine talks with his attorney Jim Hoffmeyer on Monday in a Florence County court. Delaine pleaded guilty to accessory before the fact to murder and other charges in the death of Billy Hall and Talya Poston.

Delaine won't gamble with life

Defendant in double murder pleads guilty, faces a possible life sentence

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The capital murder trial of a 30-year-old Darlington man took an unexpected turn Monday afternoon when



double murder conviction and

he opted to plead guilty to accessory before the fact of murder rather than risk a possible double murder conviction and

accepted his plea in the slayings of

32-year-old Talya Poston and 26-year-old Billy Hall but deferred sentencing until 9:30 a.m. Tuesday to give Delaine and the state time to notify those who would like to address the court.

Though he was not physi-

that day.

Clements said Delaine hatched the plan soon after he learned Hall was working as an informant for Florence County Sheriff's narcotics officers. In September 2008, Delaine sold Hall cocaine base on two occasions at an Ivy

court process of disclosure, they were forced to show Delaine and his attorney surveillance video of the controlled drug transactions.

Despite the fact the video had no audio, Delaine recognized a handicap parking tag and medical oxygen tubes in the video and subsequently identified Hall and Poston as the informants.

"He told his girlfriend he had to get rid of them, he had to prevent them from coming to court," Clements said. "She got worried because she thought he was going to hurt them. She thought he was going to have them beat up so she called Allan Rhodes with the sheriff's department and told him what Mr. Delaine had been saying."

But by that time, Clements said Delaine's plan — much worse

Carol and Bill Hall, parents of murder victim Billy Hall, listen to court proceedings on Monday in a Florence County court.



'We'll get beat'

Swinney warns against
looking ahead to FSU

SPORTS, B1

THINK
Pink

Luncheon set Oct. 15
to promote awareness,
HEALTH, A8

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013

The Times and Democrat

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People traveling on U.S. 301 south of Bamberg can't help but notice the front half of a Volkswagen Beetle sticking out of an old storefront. Harry Blume, a collector of unusual and ordinary items, thought about relocating it to his shop to use as a toolbox but decided it looked best where it was.

T&D CORRESPONDENT MINNIE MILLER

Front half of VW Beetle punctuates shop
housing Bamberg County man's curious collection

Every piece holds a memory

By MINNIE MILLER
T&D Correspondent

BAMBERG — Harry Blume isn't really sure when it all started. For as long as he can remember, he has had a penchant for picking up odds and ends at auctions and sales. The collection he has amassed might look like a pile of junk to some, but for Blume, every piece holds a memory.

It's a curious collection: the front half of a Volkswagen Beetle, dozens of miniature toy cars, every type of hammer imaginable, model farm equipment and walls and walls of tin signs. Some are displayed on shelves in Blume's shop, or "Old Man's Garage" as the metal sign above the bay



I left it here," Blume said.

The crackling white paint on the outside of Blume's shop makes an appropriate backdrop for the miscellaneous road signs, antique advertisement panels and metal memorabilia. Over the years, people have given him castoffs and he has gladly added them to his treasure trove. Many of the signs are ones he salvaged that weren't being used anymore or that he bought at auctions. Pepsi-Cola, Quaker State, Dr. Pepper and Coke have a place on his walls, along with the Blue Moonlight Drive-In Theater and Defiance Spunk Plugs.

Blume doesn't really know how old most of the items in his collection are. He just gets them, cleans them

Santee wants to grow

With eye on
expansion,
annexation is
one option

By MARY H. YARBOROUGH
T&D Correspondent

SANTEE — Struggling with infrastructure improvements within its own two-mile jurisdiction, Santee would like to extend its territory by another mile, and eventually five miles, encompassing land on the east side of Interstate 95.

Eying contiguous properties between its limits and U.S. 301 and I-95, the town is hoping its citizens would nudge the outliers to come in before the town launches into an annexation campaign.

Mayor Donnie Hilliard said he wants to measure interest for annexation, then plan how the town would offer infrastructure and services.

The issue emerged during a Sept. 19 stakeholders luncheon, where town officials met with 30 invited business guests to discuss the future of Santee commerce.

Most complaints and questions raised dealt with empty and abandoned properties and fast food restaurants.

"But you know what? All those empty businesses are not even in the town's limits," Hilliard said. "If

See Santee, A2

Haley signs pact on when governor must pay for security

By MEG KINNARD
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and the heads of state police and ethics agencies have

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