

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 12/22/2015 10:19:37 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 22, 2015

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, December 22, 2015



CLEMSON FOOTBALL, 1C FRESHMEN KEY TO WINS



LIFESTYLE, 1D How safe are crib bumpers?

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 22, 2015
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Report: SC pension issues growing

Correction needed to halt
future problem, study says

CASSIE COPE
THE STATE

South Carolina should change its pension system to address a shortfall of up to \$11 billion in 2043, according to a report on the state's pension system released

Monday.

The state should decrease the time it pays off new pension debt and potentially cap alternative investments — including real estate, hedge funds and private equity — which charge high fees, according to a report by the S.C. Legislative Audit Council.

"The LAC's report reveals that our retirement and pension system's longevity is in jeopardy and in need of immediate effective adjustments," S.C. House

Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Darlington, said in a statement. "Thousands of South Carolinians have voluntarily contributed to this program and their hard-earned dollars should always be managed in a way that produces the highest return possible."

Lucas said last week he encouraged the House Republican Caucus, which controls the House, to include pension reform in its 2016 legislative agenda.

The 2013-14 fiscal year saw the pen-

sion system's shortfall at \$19.3 billion, according to the Audit Council report. The pensions are for workers at state institutions, including agencies, higher education, school districts and local government. About 30 percent of the pension system's members are state workers; the remaining 70 percent are local government employees, the report stated.

The state should pay off its new un-

See PENSIONS, Page 8A



Alayna Tamura, 9, practices walking and stepping with her therapist Mary Jones at the Center for Developmental Services on Thursday.

Program helps 9-year-old Alayna Tamura tackle her affliction one step at a time

LIV OSBY
LOSBY@GANNETT.COM

Seeing her little girl walk across the room was something Sarah Hewett never let herself hope for.

Born with a condition called dystonia that left her muscles weak and uncontrollable, Alayna spent most of her nine years in a wheelchair.

"I didn't think she'd get to the point where she's at now," said the Simpsonville woman. "It was just thrilling to watch."

Alayna's breakthrough has been attributed to the intense therapy she's been getting at KIDNETICS, a program of Greenville Health System Children's Hospital that provides therapeutic services for children with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other conditions.

they're not walking by her age, they don't start.

"It's a great Christmas gift for her and her family."

Breaking it down

Alayna, who is also blind in her right eye from a birth defect, began physical, speech and occupational therapy when she was just a year old, her mother said.

"Her muscles move involuntarily," she said, "and her brain can't control the muscle movement."

At therapy three times a week, the

Graham ends his run for president

Senator withdraws on
last day to exit SC ballot

RUDOLPH BELL
DELL@GREENVILLENWS.COM

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina dropped out of the presidential race Monday, a little more than six months after joining.

Graham made the announcement Monday morning in a video posted on his campaign website.

It came on the last day for GOP White House hopefuls to remove their name from ballots during South Carolina's first-in-the-South presidential primary on Feb. 20, confirmed Matt Moore, state party chair.

Polls show Graham was on track for a poor showing in his home state. His support among South Carolina Republicans was between 1 and 2 percent, according to the Real Clear Politics average of the latest polls.

In the video, and during an exclusive interview with CNN, Graham argued that he had accomplished his objective of pushing the Republican field closer to his view on the need to deploy U.S. ground troops in the fight against the Islamic State terrorist group, also known as ISIL.

"I got into this race to put forward a plan to win a war we cannot afford to lose, and to turn back the tide of isolationism that was rising in our party," Graham said, referring to the non-in-

See GRAHAM, Page 5A

USA TODAY



AMERICANS KILLED



INSIDE USC'S COACH SEARCH

Tanner convinced he got the right guy, **1B**

Another honor

Clemson's Dabo Swinney named AP coach of the year, **1B**

Swinney's 'Bring Your Own Guts' speech is also the inspiration for today's poster page, **8B**



TUESDAY DECEMBER 22 2015

\$1.00

VOL. 125TH, No. 308
STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/THETATENEWS
TWITTER.COM/THETATE

TODAY: CLOUDY, ISOLATED STORMS **HI 68 LO 42**
YESTERDAY: **HI 59 LO 44 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"**
FORECAST: 10C

The State



USC MEN'S BASKETBALL RANKED IN THE TOP 25

The Gamecocks men's basketball team is ranked in the Associated Press Top 25 poll for the first time since 2004, **1B**

ELECTIONS 2016

SC's Graham drops out of presidential race

U.S. senator from Seneca says his campaign helped make foreign policy a top issue

Graham says he has no plans to endorse another candidate soon

Senator makes Monday deadline to remove name from Feb. 20 S.C. GOP ballot

BY JAMIE SEEF
jseef@thestate.com

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham dropped out of the Republican presidential race Monday, saying his campaign helped make foreign policy a top issue despite failing to gain traction.



Graham

In a video message, Graham recalled saying, early in his campaign, "Any candidate who did not understand that we need more American troops on the ground in Iraq and

Syria to defeat ISIL (the Islamic State terrorist organization) is not ready to be commander in chief."

"At that time, no one stepped forward to join me," Graham said, adding, "Today, most of my fellow candidates have come to recognize this is what's needed to secure our homeland."

In a CNN interview, Graham said he "has no intention of endorsing anyone right now" but will consider supporting another GOP presidential candidate.

Graham previously had said he planned to wait until the Feb. 9 New Hampshire

SEE GRAHAM, 7A

2 PERCENT

Poll support in South Carolina, having peaked at 17 percent in February, before he entered the race

LESS THAN 1 PERCENT

Poll support nationally, having peaked at 2 percent last spring

\$1.3 MILLION

Raised from S.C. donors through September, more than any other candidate raised in the state during the same period



SHOP AROUND BREWERY PLANS EXPANSION

River Rat Brewery on Shop Road plans "huge" expansion early next year. **6B**



Kristen Boomhower fostered one of her students after five years of being one of her teachers at Glenforest School.

Foster child finds home through her school family

Glenforest teacher and

BY SARAH ELLIS

grandfather.
Four years ago, she was

and comforting through many of her trials - became her literal family just before Thanksgiving, when Kristen and Chris Boomhower took Selena in as their foster daughter.

"I used to run away from foster homes. I didn't like

SIX SOLDIERS SLAIN US TROOPS KILLED IN ATTACK

Officials say six US troops have

Clemson's Swinney wins coach of the year ^{1B}

The Beaufort Gazette

TUESDAY, December 22, 2015

beaufortgazette.com

Established in 1897 75 cents

A Christmas homecoming

Students looked forward to annual trip home at Penn School



Charlie Simmons stands for a portrait near the front door of his home on Monday morning on Hilton Head Island. When Simmons was growing up, he attended Penn School and was only allowed to visit his home during Christmas.

DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

By REBECCA LURYE
rlurye@islandpacket.com
843-706-8155

For the few Hilton Head Islanders who attended the historic Penn School, Christmas began with a boat ride from Beaufort.

Now an hour-long car ride, the journey from St. Helena Island to Hilton Head used to be so involved, and the school so strict, that students who boarded there would go home just once a year. Each Christmas, they would board a huge boat in Beaufort, dock at Jenkins Island and drive home along dirt roads to spend a week

celebrating the holiday by lamp light.

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But the first Christmas break from the Penn Normal, Industrial and Agricultural School — when it was gift enough to just be home — is still his favorite.

Please see PENN on 9A

Gas prices drop in time for holiday

The average price for gas statewide is \$1.79 per gallon.

By MATT McNAB
mmcnab@islandpacket.com
843-706-8125

After a strong Thanksgiving travel season buoyed by low gas prices, drivers hitting the road again for Christmas will also see big price drops at the pumps, according to a news release from AAA Carolinas.

Statewide, the average price for a gallon of gas is \$1.79, down 50 cents from Christmas 2014 and the lowest price since 2008, the release said. Prices in Beaufort County range between \$1.73 and \$1.89, according to the price-monitoring site GasBuddy.

Much like Thanksgiving, a record number of state residents are expected to go elsewhere for the holidays.

An estimated 1.93 million South Carolinians are expected to travel 50 miles or more from home during the Christmas holidays, about 90 percent of them by car, the release said.

AAA Carolinas urged drivers to exercise caution. Last year, 42 people were killed in car wrecks in South Carolina from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3, 10 more from the same period a year prior.

The S.C. Highway Patrol has also increased efforts to crack down on DUI crashes over the holiday, announcing its "Sober or Slammer" campaign last week.

The campaign was announced after a sharp rise in fatalities from crashes in 2015 — 892, up from 771 deaths over the same period in 2014. Over 40 percent of those deaths were from DUI crashes.

The Highway Patrol will set up random checkpoints around Christmas and New Year's Day, but its presence will be felt more around New Year's, said Highway Patrol spokeswoman Trooper Hannah Wimberly.

Follow reporter Matt McNab at twitter.com/TPBG_Matt.

New Beaufort group to lobby for hospitality issues

By STEPHEN FASTENAU
sfastenau@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8182

the only county in the state with multiple chapters.

Cory Lang, chief of Brewster

Wells and the chamber have done a good job boosting tourism in recent years, Lang said.

\$1.6 million, could create as many as 90 new parking spaces downtown.

A parking gap recommended

to update food safety standards.

The association also runs S.C. Restaurant Week, an 11-day event



CYBER THREATS TO POWER GRID CAUSING WORRY

REGION, C4



SWINNEY: TIGERS LOOKING GOOD SO FAR

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, December 22, 2015



GoUpstate.com

75¢



GoUpstate



@GoUpstate

TODAY WED THU
61°/57° 67°/63° 71°/59°
Complete forecast, B6

UPSTATE



Giving continues despite thefts

Salvation Army of Spartanburg leaders say an employee stealing several donated Christmas presents didn't stop the nonprofit from serving those in need this holiday season. C1

Substations sought

Two new substations are planned for the Reidville Area Fire District next year, if voters approve a tax increase. C1

NATION & WORLD



Miss Universe fallout continues

The Miss Universe pageant and host Steve Harvey doubled down on the apologies Monday after an excruciating live television moment announcing incorrectly that Miss Colombia had won and then taking the crown from her head to give to a rival from the Philippines. A3

Regime change debate creates some unusual 2016 alliances

AFGHANISTAN

US troops killed near Bagram

By Lynne O'Donnell
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden motorcycle into a joint NATO-Afghan patrol Monday, killing six American troops in the deadliest attack on international forces since August. Two U.S. troops and an Afghan were wounded.

The attack happened as Taliban fighters overran a strategic district in southern Helmand province, the scene of some of the deadliest fighting between the Taliban and international



Defense Secretary Ash Carter speaks to reporters Dec. 11 at the Pentagon. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

combat forces prior to the 2014 withdrawal, adding weight to Pentagon predictions that the insurgency is gaining strength. The soldiers were targeted

as they moved through a village near Bagram Airfield, the largest U.S. military facility in Afghanistan, NATO and Afghan officials said. The Taliban

claimed responsibility.

A U.S. official confirmed that six American troops were killed and two wounded. An Afghan was also wounded. The official was not authorized to discuss the incident publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families and friends of those affected in this tragic incident, especially during this holiday season," U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William Shoffner, head of public affairs at NATO's Resolute Support base in the Afghan capital Kabul, said in a statement.

SEE TROOPS, A5

Fun on the ice



ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

Tyler Cannon, 6, holds the hand of Chandler Lyda as he skates at the ice rink in downtown Spartanburg on Monday. The young men were visiting their grandparents, Buddy and Peggy Cannon of Spartanburg. Skating on the Square will continue at Morgan Square through Jan. 3.

REPUBLICAN RACE

Graham ends 2016 campaign

By Laurie Kellman
and Bill Barrow
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday, saying he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people and helping the GOP expand its base.

With just over a month to go until voting begins, the South



Graham

Carolina senator — the only candidate from one of the four early voting states — posted a video telling supporters "we have run a campaign we can be proud of." He noted his emphasis on national security and improving the nation's balance sheet, saying he "put forth bold and practical solutions to big problems."

In a taped interview broadcast later on CNN, the 60-year-old senator warned that the election is "not about 2016" but instead "an election



Morning News

TUESDAY DECEMBER 22, 2015

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mild; fog with rain, then a shower.
High 73, low 61.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Florence County Emergency Management

Emergency Response Team shows off new drone

The Unmanned Aerial System provides the ERT with the necessary equipment to respond to chemical spills and accidents involving hazardous materials in a more safe, and cost-effective way.



JESSICA IMBIMBO/MORNING NEWS

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
jimbinbo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence County Emergency Response Team demonstrated its new drone Monday at the Florence County Sheriff's Office Training Facility.

The Unmanned Aerial System provides the Emergency Response Team with the necessary

MORE ONLINE

» Check out a photo gallery and a video of the the Unmanned Aerial System.

equipment to respond to chemical spills and accidents involving hazardous materials in a more safe and cost-effective way.

According to a news release from Florence County Emergency Management, the UAS mainly

will be used to identify chemicals and assess scenes that the ERT would not have access to. The device also can be used to assess damage during accidents or natural disasters and to help in various search operations.

FCEM Public Information Officer Andrew Golden used a truck carrying hazardous chemicals as an example.

See **DRONE**, Page 3A

Graham ends bid for 2016

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday, saying he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people and helping the GOP expand its base.

With just over a month to go until voting begins, the South Carolina senator — the only candidate from one of the four early voting states — posted a video telling supporters "we have run a campaign we can be proud of." He noted his emphasis on national security and improving the nation's balance sheet, saying he "put forth bold and practical solutions to big problems."

In a taped interview broadcast later on CNN, the 60-year-old senator warned that the election is "not about 2016" but instead "an election for the heart and soul of the Republican Party." He warned that the current GOP front-runner Donald Trump cannot defeat a Democrat like Hillary Clinton "without some major adjustments."

Having mustered little support in the polls, Graham's exit will not have an immediate effect on the race in the final stretch before the Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses and the Feb. 9 New Hampshire primary. But his decision could produce a ripple effect in his home state, which follows New Hampshire with a Feb. 20 primary. Graham will likely be a highly sought-after endorsement for those still in the race, though he's given no indication of who he would back.

By ending his campaign, Graham deprives the GOP field of perhaps its most aggressive military hawk — he said even before the June 1 launch of his campaign that more American servicemen and women "will die in Iraq and eventually in Syria to protect our homeland." That was often a stark contrast to other candidates who joined Graham in blasting President Barack Obama as weak in his approach to Islamic State militants, yet hedged when it came to ques-



PHOTOS BY JESSICA IMBIMBO/MORNING NEWS

Volunteers wheel out brand-new bikes to waiting families during Distribution Day at the Salvation Army Christmas Center on South Irby Street in Florence.



Micaela Muldrow, 13, Caleb Thornhill, 13, and Christian Muldrow, 15, pose in front of the hundreds of bikes at the Salvation Army Christmas Center. All three volunteered their time to help others during Distribution Day.

Toy story

Salvation Army provides gifts for more than 700 Pee Dee area families

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
jimbinbo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — More than 700 families received bags of gifts for Christmas thanks to the Salvation Army and the hundreds of toy donations provided by members of the community.

Monday was Distribution

Day for the Salvation Army, where all of the assorted gifts donated to both the Angel Tree program and the Empty Stocking Fund were given out to families in need during the holidays.

Distribution Day is the last of a long process for

See **TOYS**, Page 3A

EMERGENCY DAY

- » **WHEN:** 9-11 a.m. today
- » **WHERE:** Salvation Army Christmas Center at 1611 S. Irby St.
- » **WHO:** Families who weren't included Monday in Distribution Day but still need gifts for the holidays
- » **WHAT TO BRING:** Picture identification for adults, and either a Social Security card or birth certificate for each child. Children must be age 12 and under. Gifts are given on a





SPORTS: Greenwood falls to Hillcrest in tournament, 1B

INDEX-JOURNAL

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indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015

WEEKLY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Council OKs budget

City spending plan includes 7.99 millage increase

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

After two residents pleaded for next year's budget to come without a tax increase, Greenwood City Council approved with a 5-2 vote a \$15 million budget with a 7.99-millage increase.

Mayor Welborn Adams, Mayor Pro Tem Kenn Wiltshire and Councilwomen Niki

Hutto, Linda Edwards and Betty Boles voted in favor of the budget, while Councilmen Johnny Williams and Ronnie Ables cast the opposing votes.

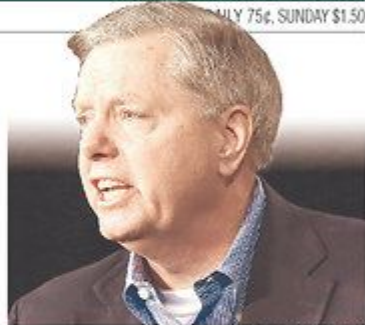
Williams and Ables, who opposed the budget from the beginning, acknowledged they still disapproved of the tax hike.

The Rev. Fred Armfield, who previously served on Council, spoke during a public hearing of the budget, telling Council a tax

increase puts a burden on homeowners and renters alike.

"I would really like the city not increase the taxes," Armfield said. "We have a lot of seniors that live in the city that's on fixed income. As you know, Social Security and disability are not getting a raise come January 2016."

See BUDGET, page 4A



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Former Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks in Des Moines, Iowa.

Graham ends presidential bid

By LAURIE KELLMAN
and BILL BARROW
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham ended his 2016 campaign for president Monday, saying he remains committed to working to achieve security for the American people and helping the GOP expand its base.

With just more than a month to go until voting begins, the South Carolina senator — the only candidate from one of the four early voting states — posted a video telling supporters "we have run a campaign we can be proud of." He noted his emphasis on national security and improving the nation's balance sheet, saying he "put forth bold and practical solutions to big problems."

In a taped interview broadcast later on CNN, the 60-year-old senator warned the election is "not about 2016" but instead "an election for the heart and soul of the Republic."

"We have run a campaign we can be proud of."

— SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM
in his message saying he's ending his presidential campaign

He warned the current GOP front-runner Donald Trump cannot defeat a Democrat like Hillary Clinton "without some major adjustments."

Having mustered little support in the polls, Graham's exit will not have an immediate effect on the race in the final stretch before the Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses and the Feb. 9 New Hampshire primary. But his decision could produce a ripple effect in his home state, which follows New Hampshire with a Feb. 20 primary. Graham will likely be a highly sought-after endorsement for those still in the race, though he's given no indication of who he would back.

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Graham also takes with him a wry sense of humor that he showcased on the campaign trail and in debates — though he never did qualify for one of the prime-time sessions, and was instead relegated to the earlier undercard events. His solution to gridlock in Washington: "We're going to drink more." It was a lesson he attributed to his upbringing in the bar that his parents owned and to the political friendship between Republican President Ronald Reagan and Democratic Speaker Tip O'Neill.

When Trump gave out Graham's cell phone number at a South Carolina campaign stop, Graham answered with a satirical video in which he attempts — multiple times — to destroy his phone, laughing at Clinton over



Inn on the Square hosted a Build-A-Gingerbread House event Monday evening where the proceeds will go to Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home.
ARIEL GILREATH
INDEX-JOURNAL

A.J. Polly, 8, works on his gingerbread house Monday afternoon at the Inn on the Square. The event raises money for Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home.

Housin' around

Inn on the Square hosts event to benefit Bowers-Rodgers

By ARIEL GILREATH
agilreath@indexjournal.com

Children crowded around tables at the Inn on the Square on Monday evening to decorate gingerbread houses and meet Santa Claus.

Parents donated \$20 or a new, unwrapped children's gift in

order to bring their children to the Build-A-Gingerbread House event, and all money and donations are being given to the Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home.

Claire Griffith, event coordinator at the Inn on the Square, said the idea for the event came after owner Jim McGuinness visited

See BENEFIT, page 4A



Lily Martin, 8, left, and her sister Katherine, 4, work on a gingerbread house together Monday afternoon at Inn on the Square. The event raises money for Bowers-Rodgers Children's Home.

THE ISLAND PACKET

TUESDAY, December 22, 2015

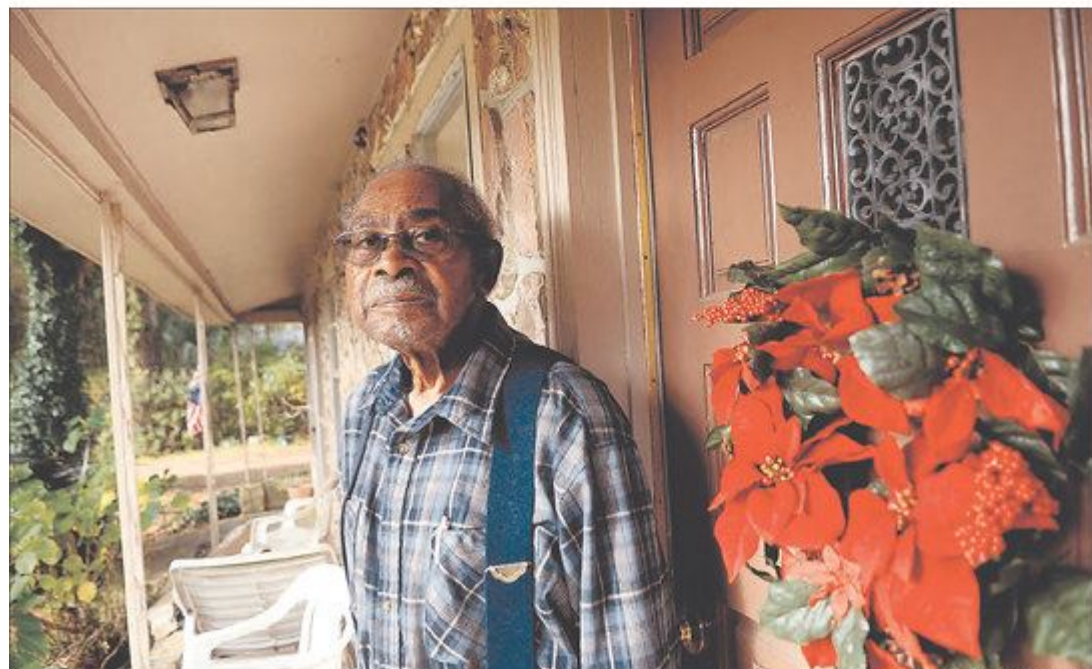


Hilton Head Island • Bluffton

75 cents

A Christmas homecoming

Students looked forward to annual trip home at Penn School



DELAYNA EARLEY • Staff photo

Charlie Simmons stands for a portrait near the front door of his home on Monday morning on Hilton Head Island. When Simmons was growing up, he attended Penn School and was only allowed to visit his home during Christmas.

By REBECCA LURYE
rlurye@islandpacket.com
843-706-8155

For the few Hilton Head Islanders who attended the historic Penn School, Christmas began with a boat ride from Beaufort.

Now an hour-long car ride, the journey from St. Helena Island to Hilton Head used to be so involved, and the school so strict, that students who boarded there would go home just once a year. Each Christmas, they would board a huge boat in Beaufort, dock at Jenkins Island and drive home along dirt roads to spend a week

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But the first Christmas break from the Penn Normal, Industrial and Agricultural School — when it was gift enough to just be home — is still his favorite.

Gas prices drop in time for holiday

The average price for gas statewide is \$1.79 per gallon.

By MATT McNAB
mmcnab@islandpacket.com
843-706-8125

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AAA Carolinas urged drivers to exercise caution. Last year, 42 people were killed in car wrecks in South Carolina from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3, 10 more from the same period a year prior.

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The campaign was announced after a sharp rise in fatalities from crashes in 2015 — 892, up from 771 deaths over the same period in 2014. Over 40 percent of those deaths were from DUI crashes.

The Highway Patrol will set up random checkpoints around Christmas and New Year's Day, but its presence will be felt more around New Year's, said Highway Patrol spokeswoman Trooper Hannah Wimberly.

Follow reporter Matt McNab at twitter.com/IPBG_Matt.

Please see PENN on 9A

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

www.thelinkpaper.com

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

75¢

Santa Letters,
Page 1B



Former sheriff's deputy arrested

JOAN YATES
Editor

David Rainwater, 42, a former Chesterfield County sheriff's deputy, was arrested Dec. 17 and charged with paying a woman for illicit activities while he was still employed and on duty on more than one occasion. The charge is misconduct

in office, which has a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

The State Law Enforcement Division, which is investigating the case, said the offenses occurred more than once throughout



Rainwater

Chesterfield County.

The arrest warrant states that Rainwater was on duty each time the offenses occurred.

Sheriff Jay Brooks said he received word of improprieties back in August and turned the case over to SLED that very day. Two agents came immediately and presented their report

the next day.

Brooks said he asked Rainwater to resign then, and Rainwater complied. Brooks said Rainwater was with the sheriff's department when he took it over and had been with the department about 10 years.

"I am so tired of having to explain the actions of others. I cannot have that define the

sheriff's department, and I will not let it define the department," said Brooks. "You expect so much of the people you love and work with. It's disappointing. It's as if your own child had done it."

Brooks said the members of the sheriff's department are taking ethics classes and other classes related to con-

duct on the job and in their private lives.

"There are things that may seem OK to them, but those things are devastating to their careers and to their families. All of us have to be beyond reproach both in our professional lives and in our personal lives," Brooks concluded.

Karla Davis makes Grand Ole Opry debut

JANE PIGG
Publisher

Karla Davis fulfilled a dream shared by every country music artist when she made her Grand Ole Opry debut Dec. 12.

She sang with Charles "Chip" Esten, commonly known for portraying Deacon Claybourne on the hit TV series "Nashville." They sang "Finally Fine," a song they co-wrote recently.

Davis said, "Singing at the Grand Ole Opry is something that dreams are made of...something that you never quite feel deserving of. I'm still amazed that I was given that opportunity and certainly don't take it for granted. Magic happens on that stage. For me it was just a glimpse of what it is



Karla Davis (right) sings with Chip Esten in her Grand Ole Opry debut.

that you work so hard for in this industry."

Davis is a daughter of Jim

and Lisa Davis of Monroe. She is a granddaughter of Laylon and Mary Elizabeth Davis

of Chesterfield and Peggy Gaddy and the late Ted Gaddy of Peachland, N.C.

92 green jobs coming to Pageland

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff Reporter

Sun Recycling Inc., a firm that recycles used plastic bottles for use in manufacturing other products, will be investing about \$7.3 million dollars and creating 92 full-time equivalent jobs over the next five years in Pageland.

Last week, at a special meeting, Chesterfield County Council unanimously approved an economic incentive package as the final move to bring the international business based in The People's Republic of

China to Pageland.

The first incentive established a fee payment to the county in lieu of taxes, the provision of revenue credits and other related matters, while the other measure would add land in the Chesterfield County portion of the joint industrial park with Lancaster County. These incentives have become standard procedures by state and local governments to help convince private businesses, including Titan Stainless and Nestle Water, to locate to those government entities.

As requested by Chesterfield County Economic Development Director Kim Burch, county council fast-tracked the incentive package with the approval process done in just six weeks.

According to Burch, the upgraded and expanded wastewater treatment system in Pageland was a major criterion for Sun Recycling to locate there.

The new business that will be located in an old screen printers plant will process discarded plastic beverage bottles, known as RPET (re-

cycled polyethylene terephthalate) bottles, into flake form and clean them to specification as raw material for other facilities, including a plant in Richburg that is located near Lewisville High School.

In turn, the Richburg plant will transform that material into recycled polyester staple fibers for use in home textiles, furniture, upholstery and automotive industries.

Gutting and retrofitting the vacated screen printers plant located on South Pine Street is expected to begin next month.

Miles receives award

Region Reports

Rachel Miles, Chesterfield County Farm Bureau Women's Chair, received a special achievement award on behalf of Chesterfield County from SCFB State Women's Leadership Committee Chair Frances Price during the organization's 72nd Annual Meeting held recently in Myrtle Beach.

Chesterfield County was recognized for having one of the top Farm Bureau women's programs in the state during 2015.

got recognized. You know what you're doing, and sometimes you wonder if your work is ever recognized," said Miles.

"In the women's program we go to Columbia and talk to legislators. We go to meetings of local organizations and support them in agriculture. Our whole purpose is to advocate for our farmers and support them," Miles continued.

South Carolina Farm Bureau is a grassroots, non-profit organization



Rachel Miles (left), Chesterfield County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chair, received a special achievement award on behalf of Chesterfield County from SCFB State Women's Leadership

Cheraw man killed in head-on collision

JOAN YATES
Editor

Stanley Drake, a 48-year-old resident of Cheraw, was killed Wednesday morning about 8 a.m. when his 1999 Lexus sedan was involved in a head-on collision.

The accident occurred off West Market Extension on Kimberly Lane about a mile south of Cheraw.

Drake wasn't wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the car.

The driver of the other vehicle, a 2007 Chevy Cobalt, was wearing a seatbelt but was trapped in the car and had to be extricated by mechanical means.

The collision is being investigated by S.C. Highway Patrol. No charges are pending at this time.

County Council approves tourism grants, IPR bonds

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff Reporter

During a special meeting last week, Chesterfield County Council unanimously approved a measure that will issue installment purchase revenue bonds not to exceed \$7 million.

Using a public facilities non-profit corporation as an intermediary, council will borrow the \$7 million from Sterling National Bank, which will charge 2.99 percent interest over the 15-year life of the loan.

The IPR bond will be repaid from the county budget and

secured through council's authority to raise millage. It will consist of a \$3 million issue for immediate facility needs and a later \$4 million for future facility needs.

In 2013, council approved a \$7 million general obligation bond, also backed by potential millage increases, for the construction and renovation of the completed facilities of the Department of Social Services, Sheriff Building Complex and Voter Registration Office, as well as the ongoing projects of the administration build-

See County, 3A

Cheraw Chronicle to close doors

JOAN YATES
Editor

The Cheraw Chronicle will shut down operations Dec. 31, according to an announcement made Dec. 17 on its website.

Founded in 1887, the newspaper went through a

series of owners in the '70s and '80s until it was purchased by Community Newspapers, Inc. The paper was purchased by Heartland Publications in September 2006.

In 2012, Heartland merged with several other newspaper groups to form Civitas Media.

Hometown Heroes Entry Deadline Dec. 29

The deadline to nominate a candidate for The Link and WCRE's 2015 "Hometown Heroes" is Dec. 29.

"Hometown Heroes" will recognize individuals who have made a difference in their community either this past year or over several years. It can be an individual or a small group.

To nominate, write a letter stating why he, she or they should be recognized as a "Hometown Hero," and email it to thelinkpublisher@gmail.com or mail it to Heroes,

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