

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
To:  
Date: 4/2/2014 10:12:49 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, April 2, 2014

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**SC Front Pages – Wednesday, April 2, 2014**



## SPORTS, 1C TIGERS COME UP SHORT



## METRO, 3A Homeless issues to be discussed

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 2, 2014  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

● **USATODAY** CEO: GM WILL DO 'RIGHT THING' **PAGE 1B**

FINAL EDITION



Signs at the Greenville city limits warn visitors of the new distracted driving ban that took effect Tuesday. MYCAL MCELLOWNEY/STAFF

## DRIVERS GET TEXTING MESSAGE

Day 1 of distracted-driving ban brings questions, tickets

By Anna Lee  
Staff writer  
alee@greenvillenews.com

Just hours after Greenville's distracted driving ban became law, workplace conversations abounded with tales of drivers checking to see if their phones were safely stowed away.

The city's ban on all hand-held mobile devices has made the act of holding a mobile device illegal while behind the wheel, which in turn bans texting, reading emails and manipulating a keyboard or screen.

Greenville police spokesman Johnathan Bragg said officers on Tuesday had begun to stop motorists seen talking on their cell phones but said the department didn't tally how many warnings and citations were issued.

"It's like a seat-belt violation," Bragg said. "They just enforce it as they see it."

Violators face a first-time penalty of \$100, plus court costs. Fines increase with second and third offenses and can result in a judge confiscating the device.



Rob Jones, shop manager at Rogers Stereo on Woodruff Road, installs Bluetooth, a permissible alternative to hand-held devices that are now banned while driving within city limits. MYCAL MCELLOWNEY/STAFF

"It's like a seat-belt violation. They just enforce it as they see it."

JOHNATHAN BRAGG, Greenville Police spokesman

See BAN, Page 4A

## Report: Road needs urgent

Council asked to consider dedicated funding source

By Rudolph Bell  
Staff writer  
rbell@greenvillenews.com

A special citizens commission paints a dire picture of Greenville County's road network in a new report and urges the County Council to consider "some means" of "dedicated funding" for making improvements.

The Greenville Citizen Roads Advisory Commission presented its report to County Council on Tuesday amid ongoing debate about whether to impose a 1 percent sales tax to pay for road improvements.

While the report doesn't recommend a sales tax, it does urge the council to "consider pursuing some means of a dedicated funding source at an appropriate level to adequately ensure needed road improvements are completed expeditiously."

A lack of funding to maintain roads threatens to "decimate our infrastructure," the report warns.

"Every district, every municipality in our county has its documented share of deteriorating roads, aging and dangerous bridges, traffic congestion and unsafe conditions," it says.

County Council created the 19-member commission in November to take public input and draw up a list of road projects.

The report details \$676.5 million worth of projects that might be funded with the possible sales tax hike, provided county voters approve it during a referendum.

Council members, however,

See ROADS, Page 4A

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Georgetown after the fire

SOUTH, B1



Eating local a moving target

FOOD, D1

# The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2014

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## Search process worries C of C donors

**Poll**  
How do you think the hiring of Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as president will affect private donations to the College of Charleston? Find this story at [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

### Foundation Board member quits; Faculty Senate votes 'no confidence'

BY DIANE KNICH  
[dknich@postandcourier.com](mailto:dknich@postandcourier.com)

Within hours of the College of Charleston's Board of Trustees announcing it would hire Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as the school's next president, Bill Asbill fired off

an email resigning his position as a member of the college's Foundation Board, and declaring he no longer would donate to the school. Asbill isn't the only donor concerned about the presidential search process. Brandon Upson, a 2013 alumnus who, along with

students, has been protesting the process by which McConnell was hired, and George Watt, the foundation's executive director, both said donors have talked to them about the search. It remains unclear how much Asbill has donated to the school.

Asbill didn't want to specify the amount. And Watt refused to release the amount any individual donor contributed to the foundation. South Carolina Press Association lawyer Jay Bender said that

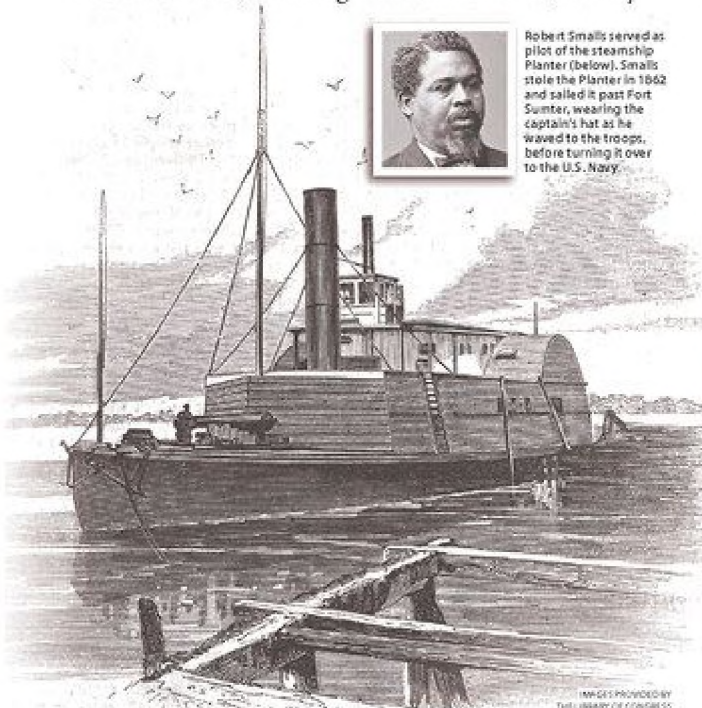


McConnell

Please see **McCONNELL**, Page A7

## Has the Planter been found?

Discovery may be linked to Civil War ship seized by Robert Smalls, winning freedom for crew, family



Robert Smalls served as pilot of the steamship *Planter* (below). Smalls stole the *Planter* in 1862 and sailed it past Fort Sumter, wearing the captain's hat as he waved to the troops, before turning it over to the U.S. Navy.

IMAGES PROVIDED BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

BY ROBERT BEHRE  
[rbehre@postandcourier.com](mailto:rbehre@postandcourier.com)

The wreckage of one of the most famous Civil War vessels to sail South Carolina waters may have been found off northern Charleston County.

Those behind the possible find aren't saying much, but they plan to announce more details during an event here next month. Early on May 13, 1861, enslaved pilot Robert Smalls seized the *Planter*, a 149-foot Confederate transport ship, from a Charleston wharf, maneuvered it past Fort Sumter and surrendered it to federal vessels outside the city's harbor.

Please see **PLANTER**, Page A4

### Wreck of The Planter

Have the remains of the coastal vessel famously stolen by slave Robert Smalls during the Civil War been found? Those familiar with the recent search for it say they may have found something off Cape Romain.



GILL QUINN/STAFF

## Pollen's reason for that sneezin'

Strategies can help you fight back

BY BO PETERSEN  
[bpetersen@postandcourier.com](mailto:bpetersen@postandcourier.com)

The "worst pollen season ever" has arrived — just like last year. That's how Maria Streck describes it. She's just kidding, but she knows. Not only is she a MUSC allergy doctor, her husband, Chris, suffers badly from allergies. Every year he tells her it's a bad one. This year has been no exception.

When the green and yellow powder starts coating the car, it's wheein' time. The Charleston area is hovering near a 10 on a pollen meter, out of a potential 12. That's about as bad as it gets around here. But it gets that way nearly every year.

This pollen season might seem a little worse this go-round because a cold, rainy winter delayed the first bursts of pollen, and it might be that

### By the numbers

**10.4** Pollen count as of Tuesday (out of 12). Causes are oak, birch, juniper.

**10.7** Forecast for today.

**10.9** Forecast for Friday. (Thursday is 10.4; Saturday, 9.7)

**30** Charleston's overall spring ranking for pollen among U.S. cities so far this year. That's considered average.

**32** Charleston's ranking last year.

**14** Columbia's ranking (34 last year). That's considered worse than average.

**1** Louisville, Ky., the worst city for pollen so far this year.

For S.C. DHEC ozone alerts: [scdhc.gov/ozone](http://scdhc.gov/ozone).

—Source: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Please see **POLLEN**, Page A7



Pollen is out in force in the Charleston area.

## Hot issues leave chefs with a lot on their plates

Politics, culture wars stirring things up

BY KIM SEVERSON  
[New York Times News Service](http://www.nytimes.com)

CLEMSON — Pete Marko expected a little pushback when he posted a sarcastic sign banning concealed weapons from Backstreets Pub & Grill, his beer and burger bar in this college town, but he didn't expect to become a national target.

Within weeks, he was slammed with so many online attacks and harassing phone

calls that he changed his number and started asking the police to open his mail.

A new concealed-weapon law in South Carolina turned his pub into a battlefield in America's culture wars. Like an increasing number of bar and restaurant owners around the country, Marko discovered that his politics can matter more than what he serves.

Please see **POLITICS**, Page A6

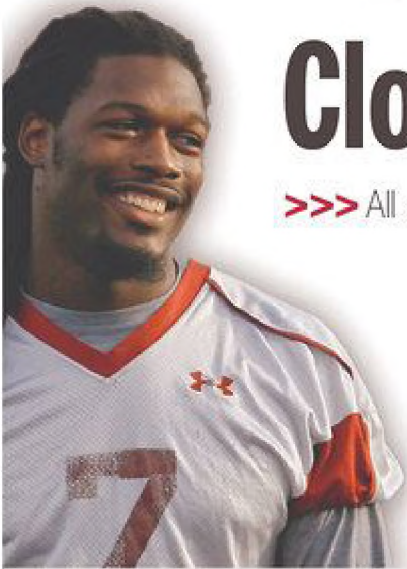


Clear High 84, Low 58, Complete 3-day forecast: **812**

Bridge — 811 Crossroads, 810.15 Movies — 89  
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**Charleston Deals today** The Lowdown Oven and Bar \$10 for \$20 worth of food and drinks. See A2





# Clowney's Big Day

>>> All eyes to be on USC superstar at pro day today, **C1**

SMU rallies to knock Clemson out of NIT, end Tigers' season. **C1**

## The State

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

### COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT

# Business recruiter arrested and fired

Gregory is accused of embezzling more than \$100,000 while working for Georgetown County

By CLIF LeBLANC  
cleblanc@thestate.com

Columbia's newly hired business recruiter has been accused of embezzling more than \$100,000 while he held the same post in Georgetown County and has been fired by the Capital City.

Wayne Gregory, 36, was in Rich-

land County's jail on Tuesday, awaiting transfer to the coastal community for a bond hearing, according to a news release from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. He was being held on a charge of embezzling public funds over \$10,000, according to the release.

Columbia city manager Teresa Wilson said she has ordered an in-



Gregory

ternal review of Gregory's work in Columbia because of the accusations out of Georgetown.

The Georgetown sheriff filed the charges on Tuesday. The allegations are that for 3½ years during Gregory's time as that county's economic development director, he used a coun-

SEE ARREST PAGE A4

## Bill calls for medically accurate sex education

Supporter scoffs at teaching abstinence only, saying, 'Do you think abstinence is being practiced now? No'

By JAMIE SELF  
jsel@thestate.com

S.C. school students should get medically accurate information about sex and health, a state House committee decided Tuesday.

The proposal is part of a push to update the state's 26-year-old health-and-sex education law that has pitted advocates of teaching abstinence only, now emphasized in classrooms, against those who say students need to learn ways to prevent pregnancy and disease.

Public school districts also would be required to report to the state and parents what they are teaching, according to the proposal, which is heading to the S.C. House floor for debate.

The House Education and Public Works Committee voted 10 to 6 with bipartisan support to advance the proposal, which would require that any information students are taught about health be "medically accurate," according to credible medical publications, associations or agencies.

The bill also would require sex-ed teachers to be certified in health by August 2020.

Under current law, school districts teach abstinence to prevent pregnancy and dis-

SEE SEX ED PAGE A7

## BUSINESS OWNERS SUPPORT EMMA'S LAW

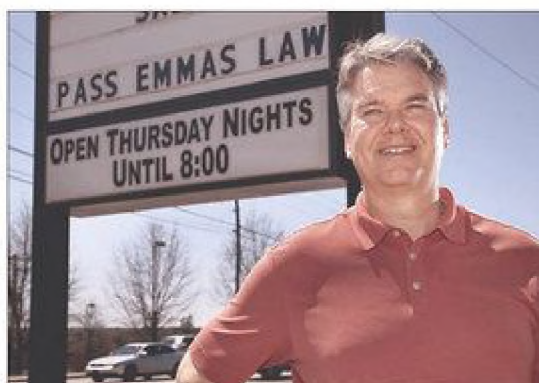
Signs, bumper stickers abound as law to curb drunken driving takes center stage Wednesday on S.C. House floor

By JOHN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

As Emma's Law – a bill that is the first significant effort in years to curb the state's soaring drunken driving deaths – moved toward a state House floor showdown Wednesday, signs and bumper stickers were everywhere.

And businesses in Lexington County and at least one in Richland, including Lexington's Marty Rae's furniture store, are displaying messages on their stores' marquees, urging the bill's passage.

"That poor little girl. You can't bring her back," Marty Rae's owner, George Carson



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### SKATING ON THIN ICE?

Columbia's experiment with a down-







# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, April 2, 2014

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## Field of dreams



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES  
To the left is a rendering of the classroom building that will be located on Megiddo Dream Station's new \$5 million campus in Graniteville.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Kay Benitez, left, executive director of Megiddo Dream Station, and Megiddo board member Monica Key of Bridgestone stand on the site of the new \$5 million campus that Megiddo plans to construct in Graniteville. The location was formerly a football stadium.

## Megiddo Dream Station preparing to build \$5 million Graniteville campus

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

GRANITEVILLE — Megiddo Dream Station is gearing up for a major expansion. The \$5 million construction project will create an approximately 10-acre campus for the nonprofit organization that will be known as Megiddo Field of Dreams.

Facilities there will include an 18,000-square-foot classroom building and an 8,000-square-foot job training center.

"Our goal is to break ground in February 2015 and complete the work in five years," said Megiddo's executive director, Kay Benitez, on Tuesday morning.

Megiddo Field of Dreams will be built on the site of the former football stadium for Leavelle McCampbell High School, which was also known as Graniteville

We're very excited because we're going to be able to serve a lot more people.

Kay Benitez, Megiddo Dream Station's executive director

High School. The location is on Gregg Highway and part of more than 100 acres of land that businessman Weldon Wyatt donated to Megiddo Dream Station. A driving force behind the charity, Wyatt developed more than 200 Wal-Mart stores and founded Sage Valley Golf Club.

Please see **MEGIDDO**, Page 16A.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Kay Benitez, right, executive director of Megiddo Dream Station, and Megiddo board member Monica Key of Bridgestone stand on the site where Megiddo Field of Dreams will be constructed.



**ONLINE**  
For a video on the new Megiddo campus, go to [aikenstandard.com](http://aikenstandard.com)



STAFF PHOTO BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

Aiken City Council member Leslie Price questioned City Manager Richard Pearce whether the City turned down help from the S.C. Department of Transportation to pick up ice storm debris during a public work session on Tuesday.

## City Council and staff at a standstill over debris cleanup

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Aiken City Council and staff apparently disagree whether the City told S.C. Department of Transportation contractors not to clean up ice storm debris in certain areas within City limits.

The disagreement came during a public work session on Tuesday.

City Manager Richard Pearce told Council so far, City crews have picked up more than 94,000 cubic yards, or 95 percent, of the first out of three passes. A "pass" is a sweep of all neighborhoods. But as Council members expressed their appreciation for the hard work from the City's Public Services crews, they also expressed concern that City officials told SCDOT not to work in certain areas because that work may be at the City's expense.

Councilman Reggie Ebner said, in speaking with North Augusta Administrator Todd Glover, that Glover said they did not have to pay for contracting with SCDOT.

Pearce said initially, there was confusion as to who was working what roads, which is why he was surprised to learn SCDOT had not done any work on the 118 Bypass.

Please see **CITY**, Page 5A.

### INSIDE TODAY

Tiger Woods to miss Masters due to surgery  
Sports, 1B

### AREA DEATHS

Evilyn Hays, Graniteville  
Frank Lever Stevens Jr., Aiken  
Gibbs H. Dixon, Graniteville  
Joyce Mae Quattlebaum, Aiken  
Michael Lehrhaupt, Aiken  
Thomas Joseph Baribault, Aiken  
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER



## Collaboration to foster entrepreneurs

### New program to help youth start a business

BY ROB NOVIT  
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

Can an 11- or 12-year-old create his own business? Some middle-schoolers, as well as high school students, have done just that through a Young Entrepreneurs Academy program.

A collaboration of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, the Aiken County School District, business representatives, USC Aiken and other education programs aims



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Among those announcing a new entrepreneurial initiative for young people at a Greater Aiken Chamber of







# Missing the Masters

Back surgery sidelines Tiger Woods at Augusta  
B1



## Herald-Journal

WEDNESDAY

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5 Things  
to read  
today



### On trial

Several medical providers testified Tuesday that they did not know a Campobello woman took morphine during her pregnancy. Stephanie Irene Greene, 39, has been charged with homicide by child abuse and other crimes related to the death of her 6-week-old daughter.

PAGE C1

### NATO's pledge

NATO foreign ministers moved Tuesday to beef up the defenses of front-line alliance members feeling menaced by a more assertive Russia.

PAGE A3

### SC nuclear facility

Lawmakers are again calling on the Obama administration to keep open a facility in South Carolina to process weapons-grade plutonium into commercial reactor fuel.

PAGE A4

### Challenge

Former state House member and judge Tom Ervin of Greenville is challenging Gov. Nikki Haley in the Republican primary because he thinks actions by the Department of Social Services are endangering children.

PAGE C1

### GM CEO questioned

The fix for a faulty ignition switch linked to 13 traffic deaths would have cost just 57 cents, members of Congress said Tuesday as they demanded answers from General Motors' new CEO.

PAGE C4

Weather

## Obama cheers 7.1M sign-ups

President touts  
final health care  
number as success

By JULIE PACE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mocking his critics, President Barack Obama boasted Tuesday that 7.1 million people have signed up for his health care law, an unexpected comeback after a disastrous rollout sent his poll numbers plummeting and stirred fears among Democrats facing re-election this fall.

"The debate over repealing this

law is over," he declared. It's "here to stay."

But the late enrollment surge may do little to change the political dynamics heading into the midterm elections, particularly for Democrats running in conservative states where the health law and the president himself remain deeply unpopular. Even Obama's advisers acknowledge that the public's views on the law are unlikely to shift significantly between now



Obama

and November.

Still, with millions of people now receiving health benefits under the law, Democrats see an opportunity to undercut Republicans still pushing to repeal "Obamacare." And GOP lawmakers, wary of overplaying their political hand, are indeed grappling with whether to press forward with repeal or narrow their focus on replacing the law with different health measures.

In a preview of his party's midterm messaging, Obama declared Tuesday that while the health law isn't perfect, it is "here to stay."

"Why are folks working so hard

for people to not have health insurance? Why are they so mad about the idea of people having health insurance?" he asked a group of administration officials and supportive members of Congress in the White House Rose Garden.

Underscoring his point, Obama quoted from letters he said he had received from people helped by the law. But Republicans responded in a new round of their own quotes from people complaining about rapidly rising rates.

"The band may be playing in the White House, but hearts aren't

◆ SEE OBAMA PAGE A4

### Stopped short in New York



## Archbishop apologizes for mansion

Catholic leader in Atlanta  
pressured over lavish home

By RAY HENRY  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Archbishop Wilton Gregory seems to have gotten the pope's message about modest living.

Days after Pope Francis permanently removed a German bishop for his lavish spending on a new residence, the Atlanta archbishop apologized for building a \$2.2 million mansion as his residence. He bowed to criticism from local parishioners and said he'd consider selling the new home in Buckhead, Atlanta's toniest neighborhood.

In letters, emails and a meeting, local Catholics told Gregory the price tag was outlandish, especially in light of Francis' frugality. The Tudor-style mansion, stretching nearly 6,400 square feet, includes two dining rooms and a safe room.

The archbishop said the new pope has "set the bar" for church leaders and others, and Gregory said he hadn't looked at the project's cost in terms of his own "integrity and pastoral credibility."

"I failed to consider the impact on the families throughout the archdiocese who, though struggling to pay their mortgages, utilities, tuition and other bills, faithfully respond year after year to my pleas to assist with funding our ministries and services," Gregory wrote late Monday on the website of the archdiocesan newspaper.

It's a challenge bishops will be facing more pointedly — and publicly — in the age of Francis.

In the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., parishioners have recently criticized Archbishop John



Gregory





# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## ■ ELECTION 2014

### A boy's story of abuse

Ex-judge explains why he's running against Haley

By SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Former state House member and judge Tom Ervin said Tuesday the story of a 4-year-old boy who was beaten to death after being returned from foster care is part of what drove him to challenge Gov. Nikki Haley in a Republican primary.

The 61-year-old Greenville attorney said the final straw for wanting Haley replaced was testimony last month alleging that management's focus on numbers at the Department of Social Services is endangering children. Ervin said he waited to jump into the race Saturday — filing on the next-to-last day possible — because no other Republican stepped forward.

Ervin said Haley should have replaced her Cabinet agency appointee.

"It was shocking to me to hear about the 4-year-old returned to an abusive home" despite 15 reports to DSS of abuse to the boy or his siblings, Ervin said. "It is wrong and we're going to start by fixing that problem."

Following a Senate hearing last month, a DSS official acknowledged mistakes in the boy's case but denied allegations an emphasis on meeting "wildly important goals" resulted in decisions that put numbers ahead of what's best for children.

Ervin, a Honea Path native, was a Democrat representing Anderson County in the South Carolina House for two terms, starting in 1979, when Democrats ruled the state. He later became a circuit court judge for 14 years. Ervin said he changed parties but not his views. He calls himself a fiscal conservative and notes he was active in former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's 2008 bid for president.

Ervin lost in a 2005 Republican primary for the Greenville County seat vacated by former House Speaker David Wilkins, who resigned to be the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

Ervin faulted Haley for promising to veto any gas tax increase to fund improvements to South Carolina's roads and bridges. He stopped short of advocating one but said the state needs a "massive

## County to be debt-free

Council OKs measure to use penny tax funds to pay bonds

By CHRIS TRAINOR  
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County is about to be debt-free.

County Council passed third and final reading Tuesday night on an ordinance that would authorize the use of capital project sales tax funds collected several years ago to pay off all of the county's bonded indebtedness and leases.

Tuesday's vote was unanimous.

With the move, the county will use about \$10.5 million in penny tax funds to pay off its debt.

Council chairman Mark Allison said he is pleased council took action to eliminate the county's debt.

"I'm all in favor of it," Allison said. "I think it is the best thing for us to do right now. As I have said earlier, I want the county to be out of debt. I think there

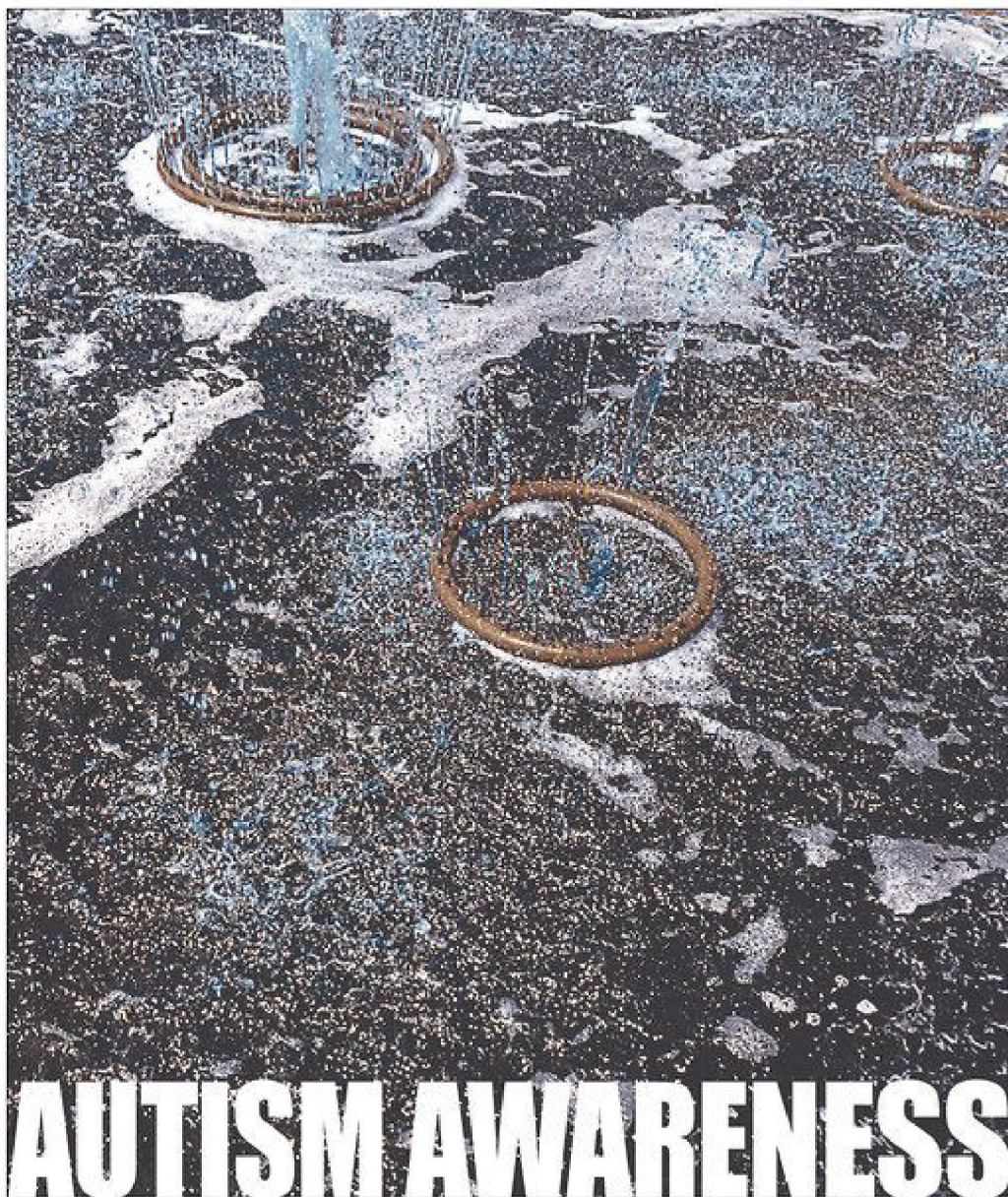
See DEBT, page 3A



Greenwood County Council chairman Mark Allison, left, officially signs paperwork authorizing the use of \$10.5 million in previously collected penny tax funds to eliminate the county's debt. With Allison are acting county attorney Stephen Baggett and county manager Toby Chappell.

CHRIS TRAINOR |

INDEX-JOURNAL



**AUTISM AWARENESS**

The City of Greenwood dyed the Uptown fountain blue in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. Furthermore, today is World Autism Awareness Day. Recognized annually on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a light on autism as a growing global health crisis.

MADDY JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL







**LOCAL: Jazz ensemble will 'break it down' in Friday evening concert A2**



**Rivalry renewed**  
Lakewood, Crestwood soccer teams square off B1

# Chamber requests Sunday alcohol sales vote

**BY BRISTOW MARCHANT**  
bmarchant@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1272

The Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce renewed the push for Sunday alcohol sales Tuesday, when the Chamber's president formally asked Sumter City Council to hold a referendum on the

issue this year.

If city council passes the ordinance requested by Grier Blackwelder, voters in Sumter would have the chance to overturn the laws restricting alcohol sales inside the city limits when they go to the polls this November.

Addressing council members during public comment

time, Blackwelder said ending the alcohol prohibition is the logical next step in the city's economic progress.

"Getting rid of the blue laws against general merchandise sales on Sunday was the first piece of this," he said. "This is the second."

This isn't the first time the Greater Sumter Chamber of

Commerce has asked for a vote on the issue. Last year, the Chamber sent a letter to Mayor Joe McElveen requesting action before the 2014 election. The Chamber proposal will permit on-premise consumption of alcoholic beverages at local bars and restaurants, as well as beer and wine sales at Sumter stores.

Council discussed the proposal at a meeting in December, when city attorney Eric Shytte told council changing the law on alcohol sales would require council to pass a ballot question in time to make an Aug. 15 deadline to finalize the November ballot.

SEE SALES, PAGE A6

## 2 men running in rematch for District 64 seat

Health care, education, industry issues in focus

**BY JIM HILLEY**  
jim@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1211

Two candidates will vie in the Democratic Primary Election on June 10 to run for South Carolina state representative in District 64. Dr. Richard "Bobby" Ridgeway III of Manning, the incumbent, faces a challenge from Willie Bethune of New Zion, marking a rematch of the 2012 election. Ridgeway was first elected to the seat in 2012

when he defeated Bethune in a two-man race, receiving 57 percent of the vote to Bethune's 43 percent.

The district represents far eastern Sumter County and most of Clarendon County, excluding a small portion south of Manning and east of Lake Marion.

Ridgeway said he thinks seniority is a major reason to return him to office.

"House District 64 and Senate District 36 have been blessed with seniority in the past, with Sen. (John) Land and the Harvin representatives, Alex and Kathy," he said. "That seniority carries a lot of weight in Columbia when it comes to getting things done. Right now we are in the process of trying to build that seniority back up."

The incumbent said he expects education will be a major issue in the next legislature.

"Education is always a big issue," he said. "It got better this year, a little bit in the budget, but we are still a little bit behind in our base student cost. We actually legislated a minimum level, and we haven't even met that minimum level yet."

Ridgeway said he thinks education is the answer to a lot of his district's needs.

"We are looking to attract industries and business into the



Motorists drive past two workers laying sections of water pipe in a ditch along Alice Drive. Activity is picking up as the weather improves, creating longer delays as traffic lanes close more often. The work will continue through the remainder of the year.

## Alice Drive expansion heats up

Good weather, more light mean delays along road

**BY BRISTOW MARCHANT**  
bmarchant@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1272

It was a harsh winter. Twice in recent months, the roads have iced over for days, and much of the season has seen below-average temperatures and heavy rainfall.

Now that the sun has come out and warmed up the landscape, you may have the urge to get out and hit the road. But if you hit Alice Drive, you'll likely find traffic backed up by the latest roadwork.

Construction along more than a quarter mile of the busy thoroughfare has been hampered by weather in recent weeks, but drivers have noticed a pick up in activity recently. Traffic backs up during daylight hours, as both lanes alternate turns driving around the orange barrels or stop altogether to allow a dump truck or tractor to get to the work site.

The reason is simple: The same warm weather luring drivers out of their garages is also giving contractors a chance to catch up on the Alice Drive expansion.

Project manager Justin Farum said drivers should expect delays for as long as the sunshine lasts.

"It's going to be one lane for the foreseeable future," he said, "so you might just want to find another route."

At any given time, two dozen contract workers with Palmetto Corp., plus the occasional supervisor from the Department of Transportation, are at work between Preot Street and Ginkgo Drive. Workers are laying down large sections of water pipe before they get covered up by the asphalt of the expanding lanes.

Large concrete rings lie end

Traffic backs up on Alice Drive on Tuesday as flaggers alternate drivers along the







**PUT ON ICE**  
Tiger shooters go cold in second half of season-ending NIT semifinal loss. **B1**

**CAFÉ CHATS:** Lifetree Café celebrates first anniversary in Seneca. **B1**  
**NO JOKE:** \$425 million lottery winner comes forward on April Fool's Day. **D1**

## School official resigns amid 'cyber bullying' allegations



Fowler

THE JOURNAL STAFF

**WALHALLA** — A Walhalla High School administrator has resigned after a public outcry and a petition calling for his firing in the wake of an alleged Facebook post about a young girl last weekend.

An online petition — which garnered 1,354 supporters — accused Walhalla High School assistant principal Charles Fowler of posting a photo on Facebook of a young girl at the Seneca Walmart on March 22 with the caption "Honey boo-boo at Walmart."

While the petition's organizers edited the photo to afford privacy to the girl, the petition alleges that her face was "completely viewable" in Fowler's posting.

Although he didn't name Fowler specifically, school district superintendent Mike

Lucas issued a statement late Tuesday afternoon saying the administrator involved in the situation had resigned.

"The School District of Oconee County, both in policy and practice, prohibits harassment, intimidation or bullying of any kind," Lucas

said. "Regrettably, a district employee made an inappropriate posting through social media that included a photograph of one of the district's students. The district does not condone this conduct."

SEE OFFICIAL, PAGE A5

### LOCAL ELECTIONS

## Close contest

Inabinet wins council primary after low turnout

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

**WALHALLA** — Andy Inabinet remains undefeated in Oconee County.

The school board chairman weathered a strong showing Tuesday from political newcomer Paul Cain, as well as a woeful 9.2 percent voter turnout, to eke out a



Inabinet

SEE INABINET, PAGE A5

## Swords runs away with School Board seat

BY GREG OLIVER  
THE JOURNAL

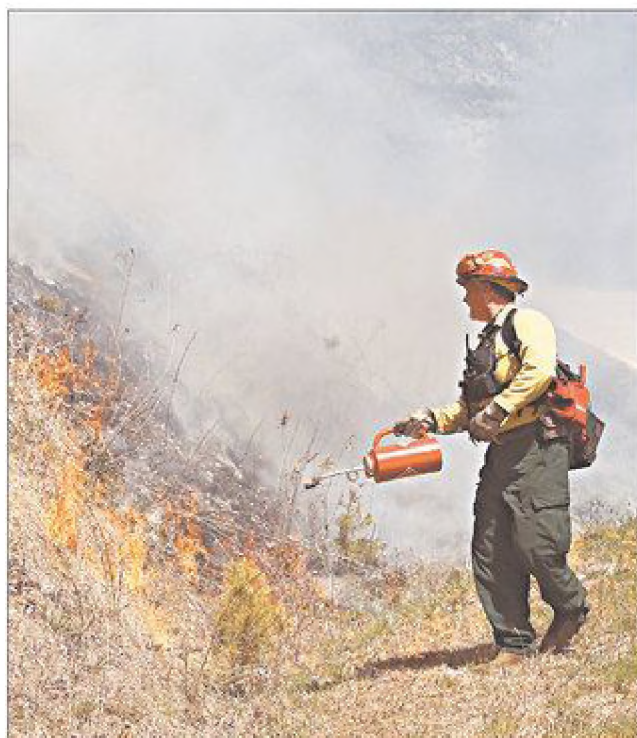


Swords

**LIBERTY** — Brian Swords, director of Tri-County Technical College'sasley campus, was elected Tuesday as the Liberty

SEE SWORDS, PAGE A5

## FIGHTING FIRES WITH FIRE



JESSICA MILMS | THE JOURNAL

**U**nited States Forestry Service firefighter Gene Gravely uses a drip torch during a routine controlled burn on Cassidy Bridge Road near Mountain Rest Tuesday. Controlled burns prevent forest and wildfires, according to forestry service representative Randy McCoy. "We perform routine controlled burns, and they are nothing to be alarmed about," McCoy said. "They're good for the ecosystem and they prevent wildfires." According to McCoy, the burns are scheduled fires that firemen know about in advance and are on-scene to watch over and take care of. "We perform these types of burns all over the county," McCoy said. "It's necessary."

## Jail price: \$16.25 million

BY NORMAN CANNADA  
THE JOURNAL

**WALHALLA** — Work on the new Oconee County Detention Center can now officially begin with Tuesday's approval of a \$16,253,068 guaranteed maximum price by the County Council.

"I feel like we have given you about as good a product as we can with as many beds as we can with the monies that we have available," county administrator Scott Moulder told County Council members at their meeting Tuesday night. "It's a long process for a reason, but that is the guaranteed maximum price. Whatever happens with the pricing, sorry, that is the price. That's why everybody is so careful that they have caught everything."

The price includes \$13,679,221 for the actual construction of the jail

SEE JAIL, PAGE A5

## Seneca to annex Propex site

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

**SENECA** — Seneca officials will soon begin the process of annexing the former Propex property into the city's municipal limits.

Joel Seavey, Seneca's finance officer and clerk-treasurer, said Tuesday that an ordinance could be introduced as early as the next city Council meeting April 8 to annex both the Propex facil-

ity and the Propex site. Seneca paid the Propex stakeholders \$2.1 million for the 450,000-square-foot building on the site and 20 acres of land. The county acquired the remaining 111 acres of land on the site for \$402,230.

The county recently approved first reading in title only of an ordinance to rezone the rail site from control-free to industrial. This paves the way for the property to be certified for indus-

submitting bids is April 10, according to procurement office information on the county's official website.



Moulder

County administrator Scott Moulder said Tuesday the county knew from the very start of negotiations with Seneca to purchase the Propex property that the city was going to annex.









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# Morning News

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2, 2014

**TODAY'S  
WEATHER**  
Mostly sunny, nice,  
warm, high 87, low 52  
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

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Marty Stuart will perform May 3 in Florence.

## Marty Stuart books Florence date

Grammy award-winner latest county star to play the PAC

From local reports

FLORENCE — Five-time Grammy-winner and country music star Marty Stuart is performing May 3 at the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center Saturday. The concert, featuring Stuart and his band, the Fabulous Superlatives, is set to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Stuart's appearance is the latest in a string of big-name country music acts to

hit the PAC. Travis Tritt played to a sellout crowd in February, and Ricky Skaggs and his band Kentucky Thunder are in concert this Saturday at the PAC.

Stuart has enjoyed a varied and successful career in music. He's a platinum recording artist, a Grand Ole Opry star, a country music archivist whose own museum will open soon near his hometown,

### WANT TO GO?

» **WHAT:** Marty Stuart and The Fabulous Superlatives  
» **WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. May 3  
» **WHERE:** FMU Performing Arts Center, 201 S. Dargan St., Florence  
» **INFO:** \$39 and \$49; limited-number VIP tickets for \$69. Tickets are available at [www.fmutpac.org](http://www.fmutpac.org); in person at the PAC Box Office or by phone at 843-661-4444, beginning at noon today.

See **STUART**, Page 3A

## ArtFields works now available on online

Organizers: 'Sneak peek' will help build excitement for this month's festival

BY DONNA TRACY  
Morning News  
dtracy@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — Those waiting for ArtFields to arrive now have the opportunity to get a sneak peek at the 400-plus works and plan their visits to the more than 50 venues. The photo submissions of the artworks were released to the public in an online gallery Tuesday.

Karen Fowler, ArtFields director, said that people can now visit [artfieldssc.org](http://artfieldssc.org) and view the art by venue.

"People can go to each and see what venue they are in and that makes it that much more exciting," Fowler said.

Fitting the 400-plus pieces into the various venues has been no easy task.

"When we threw in the 3-D award, they came out of the woodwork," Fowler said, "and we feel that the message artists took from last year's ArtFields was 'Go big,' because they did."

The largest piece is about 30 feet in length, according to ArtFields' Sandy Cook, who has been tasked with finding a home for every piece in the competition.

Cook said this year's competition includes 139 3-D works, of which 55 are installation pieces.

"There are four black-out spaces that are being created," said Cook. "They are being created based on what is already here because we couldn't go out and get anything new."

One installation piece — origi-

## A taxing decision



PHOTO BY GAVIN JACKSON/ MORNING NEWS

Firefighter Josh Phillips prepares to head to a car fire Tuesday from West Florence Fire Department Station during a Florence County public outreach session on the county's proposed unified fire district.

## Officials: Millage rate increase necessary for W. Florence under unified fire district proposal

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — It was relatively quiet Tuesday at West Florence Fire Department Station One, despite nearly two hours of talk about the proposed, unified fire district in Florence County.

Then a call came in. The station's speakers in the apparatus bay, where some 40 people were gathered, blared a report of car fire.

Several firefighters that were in attendance left to the scene. On a typical evening, only one person would have been on at the station.

The proposed fire district would initially increase the 8 mills currently levied on the



Firefighters at the West Florence Fire Department Station One listen to a discussion. This was the first of seven public outreach meetings regarding the proposed unified fire district the Florence County Council is looking to create.

Current staff levels will re- sized training, fire inspections, main and volunteers would equipment purchases and for

## Ellis named SCHP Troop 5 Trooper of the Year

Lawman helped nab four suspects on a robbery spree

BY TRACI BRIDGES  
Morning News  
tbridges@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The S.C. Highway Patrol's Lance Cpl. J.W. Ellis takes his job very seriously.

Like everyone, he gets days off. But after 14 years with the patrol, the badge is part of his mind and heart.

Ellis helps save lives every day by keeping area roads safe, but last summer, his fervent commitment and dedication to his job paid off in a special way and earned him Trooper of the Year honors for the patrol's Troop 5.

On Aug. 15, Ellis stopped a vehicle on Interstate 95 in Dillon County. The vehicle fit the description of a BOLO — Be On the Look Out — connected to an armed robbery that had just occurred at a TV Road gas station in Florence County.

"They gave out the BOLO for a red Explorer and this was a similar SUV, but it wasn't an Explorer. Still, I went ahead and pulled them over. I used my PA to

See **ELLIS**, Page 4A







CMYK



Odd



**Clemson out**

Sports, B1

**No Masters  
for Tiger**

Sports, B3



**MATZO**

YOU CAN'T  
PASS OVER

Taste, A8



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014

# The Times and Democrat

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## 'Teach for America'



Nicholas Boatwright, a fifth grade math and science teacher at Sheridan Elementary School, is in his second year with the Teach for America program.

TheTandD.com

Visit us at TheTandD.com to see video of the Sheridan Elementary visit on Tuesday.

## Program helping close inequity gap between poorer, more affluent schools

By DALE UNDER-ALTMAN  
T&D Staff Writer

Fifth-graders at Sheridan Elementary School don't get bored in Nicholas Boatwright's math class. He holds their attention through continual interplay with them and careful organization of class time. And in spite of the fact that students work with partners, the class remains under control and focused on work.

### Special guests at Sheridan

Teresa Arnold, state director of the AARP; Mac Bennett, president and CEO of the United Way; Courtney Epling, program director, S.C. Economics, Moore School of Business; and Lindsay Smith, director of public and member relations, Electric Cooperatives of S.C., visited Teach for America teacher Nicholas Boatwright's class on Tuesday.

Cindy Vandenberg, from the Teach for America program, a group of Columbia business people, and The Times and Democrat observed Boatwright's class on Tuesday. Teach for America is a nonprofit organization that encourages recent college graduates to teach for at least two years in poorer schools. It also provides them with special training



Sheridan Elementary fifth grade students Alexis Murdaugh, left, and Shatwanne Lee work on adding fractions in an exercise called the Gallery Walk in teacher Nicholas Boatwright's math class.

Teach for America.

"I didn't think I'd be a good one," he said.

mation related to instructional strategies, she said.

## Cope man dies in crash; road deaths on the rise

T&D Staff Report

A man died in a single-vehicle crash late Monday near Cope.

Thomas G. Darby, 33, of Snake Swamp Road, Cope, died of internal injuries sustained in the wreck, according to the Orangeburg County Coroner's Office.

The crash happened on Snake Swamp Road about 9:25 p.m. Investigators say Darby was not wearing a seat belt. He was thrown from the vehicle, they said.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol is continuing its investigation into the wreck.

Darby was the tenth person to die on Orangeburg County's roads this year, according to figures from the S.C. Department of Public Safety.

At this time last year, four people had died on the county's roads. Six were killed during the period in 2012.

No people have died in collisions in Barnberg County so far this year, compared to two this time the year before and one person in 2012.

Two people have died in crashes in Calhoun County so far this year, compared to one the year before. Three people died in Calhoun County during the same period in 2012.

Highway Patrol officials say that as of Tuesday, 160 people had died on South Carolina highways, compared to 168 highway deaths during the same time period in 2013.

Of the 127 motor vehicle occupants who have died in 2014, 67 were not wearing seat belts.

So far, 17 pedestrians, 11 motorcyclists and four bicyclists have died on state roads and highways this year.

## Man kidnapped, attacked ex, authorities say

By RICHARD WALKER  
T&D Staff Writer

A 5-year-old child asked if he crutches her mother learned on help her.

Steven Garner, 20, was charged by both city and county officials for what was described as a vicious ongoing assault late Monday that sent the child's mother to the hospital with multiple injuries.

Garner is facing two sets of the same charges from the Orangeburg Department of Public

See CHARGED, A6





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