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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, August 26, 2016

SC Front Pages – Fri day, August 26, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Friday, August 26, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

USC's use of live animals spurs complaint

Group claims School of Medicine violates federal law by having students operate on pigs

BY MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The emergency medicine training program at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine violates federal law by using live animals, according to a complaint filed Thursday by a doctors group that seeks alternatives to using animals in medical education

and research.

In a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine claimed that the institution is violating the federal Animal Welfare Act. In a training program at its Columbia campus, the group said, the medical school instructs trainees to cut into live pigs to insert needles and tubes, and to spread the ribs to access the

heart. After the training session, the animals are killed.

The letter is the result of a 2½-year attempt by the group to get the medical school to change its practices, according to Dr. John Pippin, director of academic affairs for the Physicians Committee. After approaching various officials at the school, including its chair of emergency medicine and the dean, the group went to the USDA

with its concerns.

"They're accustomed to doing it this way," Pippin said. "But we feel that, although they're entitled to their opinion, they're not entitled to their own version of the facts."

To Pippin, the use of live animals is not only unethical, it's not the best way to train new physicians. Pigs have thicker skin and thinner limbs than humans, meaning that doctors aren't

getting accurate training using animals anyway.

"After you practice on a pig, when you go to humans, you have to change it all around," he said. "Compared to the use of a human cadaver or compared to the use of simulators, it's not as good."

In a statement, the school says its

Please see **ANIMALS**, Page A7

Crazy about sea turtles

S.C. Aquarium releases 200th, plans new \$5M hospital



Moon, a 93-pound juvenile loggerhead, pauses before entering the ocean Thursday at Isle of Palms County Park. Moon was found in April near Garden City.

BY PRENTISS FINELAY
pfine@postandcourier.com

Thursday's release of the 200th sea turtle rehabilitated by the South Carolina Aquarium underscores how its mission has gradually expanded from interpreting the state's aquatic environments to saving a key part of them.

When the aquarium opened in 2000, there was no expectation that it would play an active

pc Multimedia

For more photos, go to postandcourier.com/galleries. To see a video of the release, go to postandcourier.com/videos.

role in caring for sea turtles, one of the coast's iconic, endangered creatures. At the time the aquarium made headlines after a 330-pound green sea turtle named "Calhoun" got stuck and died in one of its exhibit tanks.

But also in those early years, state officials approached the aquarium for help in nursing a wounded turtle back to health. The aquarium

Please see **TURTLE**, Page A6

35 tons of meth chemical seized

Port discovery spurs trafficking probe

BY GREGORY YEE
gyee@postandcourier.com

Authorities have seized more than 35 tons of a chemical at the Port of Charleston used to make methamphetamine and are working to uncover whether it is tied to a criminal enterprise.

Federal agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security Investigations and Customs and Border Protection seized 35.6 tons of benzaldehyde Aug. 17 on a ship that called at the port, said Jason Sandoval, resident agent in charge at the Charleston DEA office.

The chemical is used in about 51 percent of methamphetamine analyzed today, Sandoval said. That amount of benzaldehyde is enough to manufacture 60.5 tons of meth.

The benzaldehyde was not properly declared, leading customs agents to believe that it was being transported for use in the drug trade, he said.

It was being shipped in 55-gallon drums that filled two 20-foot shipping containers, according to the DEA office.

Please see **METH**, Page A7

Candidates clash over racial issues

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
and LISA LERER
Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Donald Trump confronted head-on allegations that he is racist on Thursday, defending his hard-line approach to immigration while trying to make the case to minority voters that Democrats have abandoned them.

His general election opponent, Hillary Clinton, meanwhile hammered the point that Trump unleashed the "radical fringe" within the Republican Party, including anti-Semites and white supremacists, dubbing the billionaire businessman's campaign as one that will "make America hate again."

The ping-pong accusations come as the two candidates vie for minorities and any undecided voters with less than three months until Election Day. Weeks before the first early voting, Trump faces the urgent task of revamping his image to win over those skeptical of his candidacy.

Please see **CANDIDATES**, Page A7

Ex-Clark Academy director reassigned as Stall teacher

Explanation in dress code incident found 'plausible'

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

After an internal investigation of an April incident on a school bus, former Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy Program Director Andrew HaLevi has been reassigned to teach English at Stall High School in North Charleston.

HaLevi served eight years at the helm of the district-wide alternative school for students who have fallen behind academically,

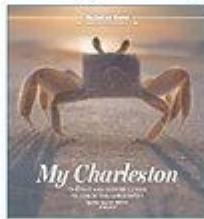


Andrew HaLevi, former Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy program director, said he was not given the chance to respond to the accusations that led to his reassignment.

cally, ending in April when the Charleston County School District placed him on leave. A 16-year-old student's family had accused him of forcing her to sit on a school bus in her underwear after a dress code violation.

Please see **REASSIGNED**, Page A6

Coming Saturday



Look for the latest edition of My Charleston magazine Saturday in The Post and Courier. The seventh annual installment is your guide to life in the Low-country.

Inside

BUSINESS

Another tool for finding unclaimed money. **B1**

SPORTS

Former Stingray Bednar now an NHL coach. **C1**



Sunny and clear.
High 92, Low 72.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B10**

Bridge B1 Continued B2 D9 Outdoors B4
Business B1 Editorial A12 Sports C1
Classified D1 Local A7 Soda B7
Comics B2-9 Movies B7 Television B6

Charleston Deals today

R&E Home Solutions
\$44.95 for supply vent cleaning, camera inspection, and flushing of A/C lines (\$200 value). See **A2**

USC FOOTBALL

Learning from champions on how to pick the right QB, 1B



CLEMSON FOOTBALL

Lower Richland's Marcus Edmond trying to earn starting job, 1B

SEC FOOTBALL

Story lines and key games on first weekly SEC preview page, 5B

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY HI 94 LO 72
YESTERDAY: HI 95 LO 68 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
FORECAST, DC

The State

Checking in: Downtown hotel market booming

USC, Fort Jackson, bars help fuel a powerful trend

BY JEFF WILKINSON
jwilkinson@thestate.com

When Raj and Ajay Champaneri were looking for opportunities to build a downtown hotel to add to their properties on Greystone Boulevard and in Lexington, they chose to fill a gap — literally and figuratively.

They are now building The Vista's first boutique hotel — the five-story, 108-room Aloft — on what was a vacant lot at Lady and Lincoln streets, adjacent to the Washington Street parking garage. Aloft is a hip spinoff of the Starwood company's upscale W hotel group. It will include a

trendy WXYZ bar and a tapas and tequila restaurant called Coa Agaveria & Cocina.

Raj Champaneri said the downtown market should continue to be vibrant, even with another three and, maybe, four downtown hotels on the horizon.

"It seems like these trends are going to continue," he said of rising occupancy and room rates. "But you go more than a mile out of this zone — the quadrant of Lady and Gervais (streets) — and the (rates) will be difficult to sustain."

Hotel occupancy rates in

SEE HOTELS, 7A

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Rivals, QBs and sons of head coaches

Airport's Brett Burnett and Brookland-Cayce's Reed Charpia square off Friday night

BY LOU BEZJAK
lbezjak@thestate.com

Playing quarterback isn't the only thing Airport High's Brett Burnett and Brookland-Cayce's Reed Charpia have in common.

The signal-callers both are the sons of head coaches. Brett's father, Kirk, is the head coach at Airport, while Reed's dad, Rusty, is the head man at Brookland-Cayce.

The two teams meet Friday night at Airport in a rivalry game for both teams.

"Me and Kirk both played against each other in high school when I was at Midland Valley and he at Airport, and then at college in football and baseball when I was at Clemson and he was at Furman," Rusty Charpia said. "It is somewhat fun that our sons are playing against each other now. It makes for an interesting game."

The elder Charpia knows what it's like to play football under the microscope of his father. Rusty played for his father Reed, who was a longtime head coach in South Carolina and now helps out on the B-C staff.

But the pressure is added now because Brett's son plays quarter-



Brookland-Cayce quarterback Reed Charpia and Airport quarterback Brett Burnett

MORE INSIDE

Lexington defeats A.C. Flora 20-17 on last-second field goal. 3B
Previews of the top Friday night prep football games. 3B

ONLINE



SPORTS RIVALRY REBORN



E GREENVILLE Revivalists close Rock the River

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 26, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY U.S. FIGHTER PILOTS DESCRIBE OPERATION OVER SYRIA PAGE 1B

Land too valuable for cheap housing

Low supply of sites
driving prices up

AMANDA COYNE
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

The land under County Square could be worth \$2 million an acre — “so valuable” it would “likely not be conducive to affordable housing,” said County Administrator Joe Kernell in a meeting of the County Square Development Ad Hoc Committee on Thursday.

This committee is evaluating options for County Square and its 32-acre parcel of land, nestled on University Ridge in Greenville’s West End. Land prices are ballooning as new apartment complexes and multi-use developments pop up and the amount of undeveloped land diminishes.

If the squat, sprawling County Square were torn down, the county could sell the land to a developer, as long as that developer included a building for County Square and a public parking garage in the plans. If all 32 acres were sold at \$2 million per acre, the county could get \$64 million.

Kernell said he expects the development could be worth as much as \$600 million when it’s complete. Since the county will no longer own the land, there would be a significant increase in tax revenue. The county does not pay tax on the property it owns.

“This development is going to be the largest development, potentially, in downtown Greenville, so it has to be done right,” Kernell said.

There is a “huge amount of inter-

See LAND, Page 7A

Church demolition underway

ERIC CONNOR
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For more than half a century, the sight of Pendleton Street Baptist Church’s faded emerald steeple has been an icon in the West End and visible at various points across downtown Greenville’s skyline.

That sight disappeared on Thursday morning as crews removed the steeple as part of the demolition of one of the West End’s oldest churches begins.

The church, its congregation founded in 1890, will be torn down completely to make way for a five-story, 271-unit, luxury apartment complex.

FALL FESTIVALS



HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

Festivals such as Euphoria have an impact that stretches beyond the event, and they can create a positive impression and bring visitors back.

CELEBRATIONS FUEL ECONOMY

Events raise both
revenue, awareness

MICHAEL BURNS
MBURNS@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Lisa Garland was living in Hickory, North Carolina, about 15 years ago when she came across an advertisement for the North Carolina Apple Festival, the annual celebration over Labor Day weekend that draws hundreds of thousands of people to its small, charming city about 100 miles to her west.

“I had not even heard of Hendersonville,” Garland said. “I went up there and just fell in love with it. Now that I’m in Greer, Hendersonville is even closer, and now that I have an awareness of all that town has to offer, when we want to do something different, we go.”

Mission accomplished. From Fall for Greenville and Bacon Labor Day in Simpsonville to Family Fest and the new Railfest in Greer, festival organizers strive for impact that lasts beyond their events, and they’re





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UPSTATE, C1



AREA TEAMS GEAR UP FOR WEEK 1 CONTESTS

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, August 26, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN



92°/72° 91°/73° 89°/69°

Complete forecast, B10

UPSTATE

Businesses weigh in on Spring Fling

More than 40 percent of downtown Spartanburg business owners think the city's Spring Fling festival doesn't have a positive overall impact on downtown. City staff surveyed downtown business owners over the past two weeks to learn how the annual event affects the businesses located in the festival's immediate footprint. **C1**

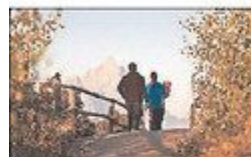
CAMPAIGN 2016



Poll: Gender matters in this election

There's no "glass ceiling" keeping a woman from the presidential nomination anymore, but most Americans still think Hillary Clinton's gender will influence the November election. They're just divided on whether it's more of a curse than a blessing. **A6**

NATION & WORLD



Park Service marks its 100th birthday

The National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday on Thursday with events across the U.S., including the creation of a giant, living version of its emblem in Washington, D.C., a naturalization ceremony on the

ITALY EARTHQUAKE

Death toll rises to 250

By Trisha Thomas, Frances D'Emilio and Nicole Winfield
The Associated Press

PESCARA DEL TRONTO, Italy — As the search for survivors ground on, Premier Matteo Renzi pledged new money and measures Thursday to rebuild quake-devastated central Italy amid mounting soul-searching over why the seismic-prone country has continually failed to ensure its buildings can withstand

such catastrophes.

A day after the deadly quake killed 250 people, a 4.3 magnitude aftershock sent up plumes of thick gray dust in the hard-hit town of Amatrice. The aftershock crumbled already cracked buildings, rattled residents and closed already clogged roads.

It was only one of the more than 470 temblors that have followed Wednesday's pre-dawn quake.

SEE QUAKE, A5



Rescuers search through debris following an earthquake in Pescara Del Tronto, Italy, on Wednesday. ANDREW MEDICINI/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCC UNION CAMPUS

Honing skills

New campus to help prepare students for high-skilled manufacturing jobs

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

Inside mechatronics and welding labs at the new Spartanburg Community College Union County Campus, students will prepare for advanced jobs while staying close to home.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Thursday afternoon to celebrate the facility, SCC's fifth campus in the Upstate. The campus, located along Highway 176 in Union, houses classrooms, computer labs, a mechatronics lab and welding lab to help students practice the skills needed for high-tech manufacturing jobs in the area.

"We now, however, have a permanent location in this community that we can establish roots; that we can provide the associate of applied science degree programs," said SCC President Henry Giles. "We think it'll be a major benefit to the people of Union."

Some general education courses also will be offered at the facility so students don't have to drive to



John Robbins of Timken examines one of the teaching stations in the mechatronics/robotics lab at the new Union County campus of Spartanburg Community College. The campus celebrated its opening Thursday. JOHN BYRUM PHOTOS/JOHN.BYRUM@SHJ.COM



Tracy Sanders, front, and John Robbins, back, are looking at a display.



SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2016

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Morning News

FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 2016

TODAY'S
WEATHER

Mostly sunny, hot
and more humid.
High 97, low 71.
DETAILS 2A

www.sctnow.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Honda to invest \$45 million in expansion

Honda of South Carolina, the manufacturing facility in Timmonsville, announced a \$45 million investment with a 115,000-square-foot expansion and the addition of 250 jobs.



MEGAN WAY/MORNING NEWS

Create 250 jobs at Florence manufacturing plant

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

TIMMONSVILLE — Honda of South Carolina announced Thursday that it is making a \$45 million investment with a 115,000-square-foot expansion that will bring 250 new jobs.

Growing to meet demand for

Honda's side-by-side vehicles, produced exclusively at its South Carolina plant, required a focus on creating a more flexible and efficient production facility, said Gary Mabrey, president of Honda of South Carolina Mfg. Inc. "The step-by-step growth of our operations in South Carolina is really a testament to our outstanding associates and the

great products they create for our customers every day," he said. Company officials said that before Thursday's announcement, Honda had invested \$93 million and added 150 new jobs in South Carolina over the past five years related to side-by-side production alone. Honda

See HONDA, Page 3A

Latta

Suspended police chief addresses rumors

from staff reports

LATTA — Suspended Latta Police Chief Crystal Moore posted a statement on her Facebook page Thursday morning addressing rumors about her health. She said she had surgery in April for treatment of sarcoma, a form of cancer.



Moore

Moore was suspended from her position as chief for five days starting Tuesday morning for reasons that have not been disclosed. Assistant Police Chief Derrick Cartwright is acting as interim police chief for the duration of the suspension.

It is the second time that Moore,

See MOORE, Page 3A

No candidates for Florence District Three school board elections

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Lake City News and Post
smccray@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — An election for three Florence County School District Three board of trustees seats will be held Nov. 8, but no one filed to run for those seats. The filing period has ended.

Seats for Districts 1, 2 and 3 —

PICKLEBALL PLAYERS



PHOTOS BY MEGAN WAY/MORNING NEWS

Steve Chinnes plays pickleball with friends at Timrod Park on Thursday afternoon.

Marie Edwards and Stephanie Benjamin play pickleball against friends and fellow members of the Pee Dee Picklers at Timrod Park on Thursday afternoon.



Members of the Pee Dee Picklers, a pickleball club, practiced at Timrod Park on Thursday afternoon. The group was gearing up for a club tournament to be held at Timrod Park on Saturday, starting at 9 a.m. Although the tournament is for club members, spectating is free and open to the public.

Darlington Car Hauler Parade to kick off race week

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dswearingen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Next Thursday,

IF YOU GO

» WHAT: Darlington Car Hauler Parade
» WHERE: Florence Civic Center



MacKenzie Perry, 18, with her mother, Isabelle MacKenzie, and father, Butch

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County's News Leader Since 1893

50 CENTS

FRIDAY AUGUST 26, 2016

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Genealogical files moving to Darlington

Johnny Andrews, vice president of the Old Darlington District Chapter, South Carolina Genealogical Society Inc. in Hartsville, looks at a family tree that is part of the ODDC's collection of historical documents, maps, books and photographs, which will be moved to the Historical Commission in Darlington.



ARDE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

BY ARDE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

HARTSVILLE — The Old Darlington District Chapter, South Carolina Genealogical Society Inc. in Hartsville has lost the home for its extensive collection of historical information. The chapter, started in June 1997, has called the old Depot building on Fourth Street home of the Hartsville Genealogical Research Library for nearly 20 years but was given notice

this summer it would have to move. The building has been sold.

The new owners are Cross Roads Development LLC.

"I hate to see it happen, but at this time it is necessary," said Johnny Andrews, vice president of ODDC and editor of its quarterly publication, The Darlington Flag. He is also a member of the Hartsville City Council.

"We could see the handwriting on the wall," he said.

According to Andrews, the ODDC found out in June that there was a bid on the building.

"We leased the building from the city of Hartsville for \$1 a year," Andrews said.

For a while now, members have been packing and preparing to move boxes of historical documents, old maps and photographs.

Andrews said the city did not have another available

See GENEALOGY, Page 4A

Board hears limitations on referendum activities

BY JIM FAILE
jfaile@hartsvillemessenger.com

DARLINGTON — Darlington County Board of Education members were briefed Monday on what the Darlington County School District can and cannot do legally regarding a bond referendum set for the Nov. 8 general election.

The district cannot use public money, public time or public property to support or oppose the referendum, according to the board's bond attorney, Ben Zeigler.

Neither district employees nor board members can advocate for or against the referendum while "on the clock" under the State Ethics Act, Zeigler said.

The district can hold public meetings to share factual information related to the referendum, but Zeigler recommended against holding such a meeting on public property out of an abundance of caution.

Zeigler recommended avoiding any questionable or "gray" areas related to the referendum to avoid running afoul of the ethics act.

Monday's briefing came during a board work session.

The board voted on Aug. 12 to adopt a resolution for a general obligation bond referendum for the general election for up to \$60 million by extending the existing penny sales tax approved by Darlington County voters in a 2003 bond referendum for another 15 years.

If approved by voters, the bond will pay for the construction of three new elementary schools, one in the Hartsville area, one in the Darlington area and one in the Lamar area. The three new schools will replace six existing and aging elementary schools.

The schools that would be replaced are Washington Street Elementary in Hartsville, 55 years old, and West Hartsville Elementary, 60 years old; Brunson-Dargan

See BOARD, Page 4A

Leadership Hartsville community project unveiled

BY ARDE ARVIDSON
aarvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

HARTSVILLE — Leadership Hartsville Class of 2016 unveiled its community project on Thursday at the Butler Heritage Foundation.

The project, a bulletin board under glass, is a culmination of more than nine months of fundraising by the Leadership Class. As is customary, said John Russell, Leadership Hartsville project manager in a release, the 2016 class chose a project that they believed would have a lasting and positive impact on the community.

One side of the information board is under glass, locked and will be maintained by the city of Hartsville, which will update with events going on in the city. On the other side, facing the street, the community will be able to announce yard sales, church events and other items.

"As we have learned about Hartsville — its history and its future — we believe open and accessible communication is an integral part of creating strong community," Russell stated. "Linking businesses, government, churches, neighborhoods and educational institutions together through shared information can only benefit Hartsville through strengthened connections and increased community involvement."

Dr. Alvin Heatley, chairman of the Butler Heritage Foundation Board of Directors, addressed those gathered Thursday for the unveiling. He said this communication tool was "drastically needed."



ARDE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Trey Ingalls welcomes guests to the unveiling of the Leadership Hartsville Class of 2016 community project on Thursday at the Butler Heritage Foundation on Sixth Street.



John Russell, Leadership Hartsville project manager, talks about the many fundraisers the group engaged in to raise money for its community project, an information board located at the Butler Heritage Foundation on Sixth Street.

He said it would help reduced the divide between those who use social media and those who don't. He said it will allow information to be shared so that

more members of the community will know what is happening in Hartsville.

"It is a means for us that don't depend on social media or newspapers to know what is happening," Heatley said.

The leadership class consisted of 18 graduates who became more invested in their community as the months passed.

One member, Tiffany Mixon of Bethune, said it was a great experience for her. Before accepting her present job as a financial services manager with SPC, she was a home-school mother for 15

See LEADERS, Page 4A

Officials close homeless shelter, deemed unsafe

From staff reports

DARLINGTON — A homeless shelter on Law Street is no longer permitted to house people after the Darlington fire mar-

up to code."

The shelter, located on 109 Law Street, had several issues involving potentially dangerous situations, according to a release from the Darlington Po-

lice and the fire marshal visited the building on Tuesday, Aug. 23, and found multiple issues inside the shelter including exposed outlets and fixtures, malfunctioning fire safety doors

building was allowed to remain open but people could no longer reside there "until all items were resolved to the satisfaction of appropriate officials."

"People are not allowed to



Game of the Week

White Knoll @ South Aiken

7:30 p.m. kickoff — Week 1 breakdown, 7A-10A

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867



FRIDAY, August 26, 2016

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Minority votes an issue for Trump



Trump

Supporter: Lack of appeal highlights problem for GOP

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
AND CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
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ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

For one Donald Trump supporter, the celebrity businessman's try at appealing to the minority vote — which polls say he

holds around 1 percent just several months ahead of the general election — highlights a bigger problem for the Republican Party. "I feel, in general, the Republican Party needs to do a better job of reaching out to minorities — instead of talking to them, talking with them," said Cole Lindell, an Aiken resident and co-chairman of Donald

Trump for President in Aiken County. Trump's outreach to minorities, particularly of the black community, put him again in the headlines last week after he stopped in Wisconsin. "You live in poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs, 58 percent of your youth is unemployed. What the hell do you

have to lose?" Trump asked. Former S.C. State House Rep. Bakari Sellers, a Hillary Clinton surrogate and regular political contributor on CNN, told the *Aiken Standard* on Thursday that Trump's comments were "condescending at best." Please see **TRUMP**, Page 12A

SHARE YOUR SEPT. 11 STORY



As the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks nears, the *Aiken Standard* wants to hear our readers' Sept. 11 stories. Everyone has one — before, during and after — where were you when the world stopped turning Sept. 11, 2001? And how have you been affected since?

Email your Sept. 11 story to mystory@aikenstandard.com and it could be included in our special Sept. 11 edition.

How to watch the Game of the Week

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. today
TV: Watch on Atlantic Broadband channel 7
ONLINE: Find the game on aikenstandard.com and watch via YouTube

AREA DEATHS

Shirley Ashley Odom, Elko
Erika Young, Aiken
Francis Wyman Knight, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Group seeks bag ban

City committee looking to ban plastic bags citywide

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

An Aiken City committee is recommending a citywide ban on lightweight, single-use plastic bags because of their threat to wildlife and the environment.

Andy Hallen, a member of the Energy and Environmental Committee, told City Council earlier this month he'd like to see the City reduce and eliminate the use of plastic shopping bags over the course of next year.

"There is an environmental catastrophe looming in our future," Hallen said. "Plastic bags litter our streets ... eventually finding their way into our streams, lakes and oceans, and because it is impractical to recycle them, over 90 percent end up in landfills, where they take up space for up to a thousand years," he said.

Hallen would like to see the city implement a ban similar to the ban imposed by the Isle of Palms in June 2015.

The Isle of Palms, near Charleston, was the first city in the state to ban the distribution of single-use plastic bags by retailers to consumers at any city facility, city-sponsored event, or any event held on city property, according to Hallen said. According to City of The Isle of Palms June 23, 2015 City Council meeting minutes, city council unanimously voted to ban single-use plastic shopping bags. The ordinance also prohibits any business establishment within city limits from providing single-use carryout bags to its customers.

The ban went into effect Jan. 1 of this year. Similar legislation is being considered by the Town of Folly Beach.

"We make it effective one year after passage, and we

Please see **BAGS**, Page 12A



IMAGES PROVIDED BY LAUREN HARRY

Drought increases across state, Aiken unchanged

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

The South Carolina Drought Response Committee has recently upgraded drought statuses for 17 state counties, while Aiken County remains at the first level of drought.

The upgraded statuses followed a committee conference held Aug. 17, according to a news release issued

drought and upgraded three, including Edgefield County, to "moderate," the second level of drought, according to the release.

Aiken is among the other counties that remain at incipient.

For the state, the effects primarily concern agriculture, Assistant State Climatologist Wes Tyler told the *Aiken Standard* on Thursday.

"It's pretty much an agricultural is-

What it means for farmers, he said, is some have had to use water reservoirs and wells. He added irrigation is not free.

"If nature doesn't cooperate, it's using an expense to try to even it out."

According to the release, the Upstate, which has been dry, has received rain over the past few weeks though rainfall in the Pee Dee region has "significantly decreased."

to concern that the relief could be "short-lived," and in the Pee Dee, the lack of rain was enough for the committee to upgrade all counties in that region to incipient, the release said.

A part of S.C. Department of Natural Resources Hydrologist Scott Harder's statement said, "... Areas where stream flow levels have consistently been the lowest include the Middle Savannah Basin, the upper

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Lidl looking to open in Greenwood

German giant grocery store chain has plans for local store

By ADAM BENSON
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A German grocery chain that is looking to aggressively expand its U.S. market share plans to open a store in Greenwood.

According to land records and city leaders, Lidl is readying for construction on a 36,000-square-foot location at 425 Bypass 72 NW, which is next to Precision Tune Auto Care.

Documents filed this month with the Clerk of the Court's office show that Lidl US Operations LLC paid \$2.8 million to Stockman Lands, Inc. to acquire the 4.8-acre parcel that's part of Northgate Commons.

The lot appears to have been prepared for development, with curb cuts and a traffic island in place. County/City Planning Direc-

tor Phil Lindler said Lidl, which is owned by Lidl Stiftung & Co., KG, originally filed construction plans in February. But last week, company executives said they were rebidding the entire project.

"We do have construction plans, however, we've been working with them for some time and Lidl has told us they're resubmitting the entire plans, so we're not sure what they're doing," Lindler said.

Lindler said improvements to the lot were made by Stockman in anticipation of occupancy.

Lidl, chief competitor of German discount store chain Aldi, has targeted South Carolina as a focal point of its expansion activities, according to recent news reports.

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Lidl U.S. recently purchased this lot at 425 Bypass 72 NW in Greenwood.

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KEEPING VIGILANT

Police departments secure state funds for body cams in Lakelands

By ADAM BENSON
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A dozen Lakelands law enforcement agencies — from tiny Due West to sheriff's offices in Greenwood, Laurens and McCormick counties — are among the 169 statewide to receive funding for the purchase of body cameras.

And the Greenwood Police Department, at \$225,213, was the third highest recipient by dollar amount, behind the state Department of Public Safety and Sumter police.

In June 2015, Gov. Nikki Haley made South Carolina the first state requiring every law enforcement agency to wear body cameras. Under the measure, departments would be reimbursed for equipment purchasing costs.

In total, the state distributed \$5.7 million.

"The goal was to provide funding to each requesting agency, and all agencies that requested funding received some portion," Lt. Roger Hughes, a spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety, said in an email. "The amount of approved funding was based on agency size, number of officers expected to use the body-worn camera hardware, requests made by agencies for storage and maintenance and content in the application itself."

See **CAM**, page 4A



Lander University Police Capts. Vernon Peppers, left, and Greg Allen chat with sophomores Jenna Stewart and Stephanie Watson on campus Wednesday afternoon.

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■ **ERSKINE PRESIDENT**

College begins presidential search

From staff reports

Trustees at Erskine College and Theological Seminary have started searching for a new president.

Paul Kooistra will remain president during the search.

When Kooistra took the reins in August 2014, the institution had spent two years on warning with its accreditor — the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges — and would soon find itself on probation over concerns about the college's long-term financial stability.

After a number of cost-saving efforts — including layoffs — and improved fundraising tallies, the college was taken off probation. The college welcomed its largest class in school history this fall.

"We gave Dr. Kooistra the daunting task of stabilizing Erskine's financial situation, and he has done a great job with that," Ron Vigus, chairman of the trustees, said in a release. "He has often lightheartedly reminded us that he thought he was retiring before we called him to be president."

See **ERSKINE**, page 4A



PAUL KOOISTRA

Accelerate program to give students 40 hours of college credit

By ABRIEL GILBREATH

administrator, said the governor's

"They have to do the entire pro-

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