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Thursday, May 5, 2016

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Haley 'not interested' in being Trump's VP

Outspoken critic of bombastic billionaire 'flattered to be mentioned,' to back nominee

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
skropp@postandcourier.com

Gov. Nikki Haley confirmed she will support Donald Trump for president but that she's giving up on being considered as a possible vice presidential pick.

In a note to state and national media Wednesday, Haley said she

has great respect for the will of the people in elections and that she has always planned to back the Republican nominee.

But she added, "while I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serv-

Palmetto Politics
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ing as vice president." Haley, who has butted heads with Trump on two notable oc-

casions, had widely been seen as being in the VP conversation. She was openly receptive to the idea during a speech at the National Press Club in August and had remained as a speculative pick even after her run into with the brash New York billionaire.

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A7



Haley

Trump

Inside

Trump's open path to nomination causes agony for some. **A7**

As Trump wins, Clinton explores how to woo GOP-ers. **A7**

Sweating finals

Citadel cadets must pass tough test to be part of graduation pomp



Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Rich (center) and Sgt. Maj. Andrew Yagle show cadets at The Citadel what they are looking for during the push-up portion of a physical fitness test early Wednesday. The cadets had to pass the test to walk during graduation.

BY DEANNA PAN
dpan@postandcourier.com

In the inky, predawn hours Wednesday, four senior cadets waited at the end line of Wilson Field for their final exam of the year.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Pamela Barton, The Citadel's assistant

commandant for operations and training, called roll at 5:30 a.m.

"Everybody stays here until I get full accountability," she barked.

Bright field lights illuminated the end zone, where the grass was moist from the previous night's storm. As Charleston slept, four young men in blue shirts and shorts mustered all their strength for their last phys-



Poll
Could you pass The Citadel's physical fitness test? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

ical fitness test before graduation on Saturday. Every repetition matters. Each

passing second counts.

Senior cadets who fail The Citadel physical fitness test, or CPFT in cadet parlance, are deemed "physically deficient." They can't participate in commencement ceremonies or the Long Gray Line parade — a rite of passage for graduating Corps

Please see **CITADEL**, Page A4

Southard still in race despite allegation

Resignation creates complications for GOP

BY BRENDA BINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

MONCK'S CORNER — A state lawmaker who resigned last month in the wake of an ethics allegation involving a female Statehouse page could be re-elected in November.

Former Rep. Eddy Southard said Wednesday he is going to leave his name on the Nov. 8 ballot for the District 100 seat. He was running unopposed in the June primary and the general election before he quit.

Southard, a Republican, served in the Statehouse for five years before resigning April 27, a day after a Statehouse page filed a sexual harassment allegation against him.

"It'll automatically go back (to Columbia), if that's what I decide to do," he said.

Filing closed for the election in March, so the only way for another candidate to be listed on the ballot would be by filing a petition. That process involves collecting signatures from 5 percent of the district's registered voters — or about 1,355 names — by noon July 15. Candidates who run that way are listed on the ballot but with no political party affiliation.

If Southard were to bow out, the GOP could replace him with a new candidate. State Election Commission spokesman Chris Whitmore said.



Southard

Please see **SOUTHARD**, Page A4

No tickets to 'Porgy'? You can see it anyway

Spoleto Festival to live-stream opera

BY ADAM PARKER
aparker@postandcourier.com

Tickets for every performance of Spoleto Festival USA's production of "Porgy and Bess" sold out within about two weeks, leaving many to hope for a miracle. Would the festival schedule additional performances? Were there blocks of reserved seats that might become available? And there was something else, a gnawing issue that many arts organizations must

cope with (or choose to avoid): What about all the people who want to see the show but can't afford the ticket price in the first place?

Spoleto Festival, in cooperation with the Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs and Picoles Spoleto Festival, came up with a solution. It will live-stream the performance of "Porgy and Bess" on a jumbotron screen in Marion Square at 7:30 p.m.

Please see **PORGY**, Page A4



Spoleto Festival USA General Director Nigel Redden (from left), soprano Alyson Cambridge, baritone Lester Lynch and Mayor John Tecklenburg gathered Wednesday to announce a live stream of "Porgy and Bess."

Summerville ex-jeweler accused of killing wife

Her family raised questions about suicide claim

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

She saw him as the man of her dreams.

She was a widow with a daughter about the same age as his girl. He was a prominent jeweler and divorcee.

Sara Vietra and Michael Colucci were a good fit. They got married. They went to work



Colucci

together. "He is my one, and always will be," she wrote on a wedding website.

Four years in, on May 20, Colucci told authorities that he saw his wife hang herself with a garden hose. Sara Lynn Colucci was dead at 38.

But her family started raising questions. State investigators

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Inside

BUSINESS
Two new grocery stores planned for Charleston area. **B1**

CHARLESTON SCENE
The Commodore revives old Touch of Class jazz club closed for 20 years. **E16-18**

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South Carolina's football coach Will Muschamp talks recruiting. **C1**

LOCAL
Local Jewish community observes Holocaust Remembrance Day at Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim. **A3**



Chance of storms. High 72, low 50. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

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Three Camden-trained horses beat odds to make field, 1B



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The State

THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

How Trump broke the rules ... and triumphed anyway

Haley as Trump's GOP running mate? 'Not interested'

BY JAMIE SELF
 jself@thestate.com

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley ruled out being Donald Trump's running mate Wednesday as the New York billionaire's path to the GOP presidential nomination cleared.

In a statement, Haley said: "I have great respect for the will of the people, and as I have always said, I will support the Republican nominee for president." "To the members of the press who are asking, while I am flattered to be mentioned and proud of what that says about the great things going on in South Carolina, my plate is full and I am not interested in serving as vice president."

Meanwhile, S.C. Republican Party leaders called Wednesday for

their party to unify behind Trump after his last two major opponents quit the race. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas left the race on Tuesday, following his landslide loss in the Indiana GOP primary, and Ohio Gov. John Kasich dropped out Wednesday.

"We have to respect the fact that Donald Trump has won dozens of states," said S.C. GOP chairman Matt Moore. "Republican voters clearly want an outsider who will shake things up."

Moore said Trump, who won South Carolina's GOP primary in February, will have access to the state party's data and field operations immediately. "Our job, at the end of the day, is to help candidates win elections."

SEE HALLEY, 7A



Nikki Haley

“MY PLATE IS FULL, AND I AM NOT INTERESTED IN SERVING AS VICE PRESIDENT.”

S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley

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Kasich calls it quits, 4A

Can Clinton take votes from Trump? 7A

Arial on Trump, C2



Donald Trump

“I DON'T NEED ANYBODY'S MONEY.”

Donald Trump on independent superPACs



Billionaire now has a clear path to GOP nomination

BY NANCY BENAC
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON Polling? Who needs to do that? Fund-raising? Can't be bothered. Parse your words? Fuhgetabout it.

Donald Trump took the rules of modern politics, trashed them and became the last man standing for the Republican nomination anyway.

12 ways Trump did it his way:

SAY ANYTHING It's what Trump's supporters love about him: He blurts out whatever pops into his head. He rejects "political correctness." He insults rivals and critics. He has fun. After one particularly salty salvo, Trump explained: "That's what I mean about being politi-

cally correct; every once in a while you can have a little fun, don't you think?" Plenty of candidates may think it, but Trump said it: "I'd like to punch him in the face," he said of one protester. To listen to a Trump speech from start to finish is to enter an alternate grammatical universe. Sentences veer off in unexpected directions as Trump has a new thought. When he interjects his trademark "by the way," there's no telling where he's headed next.

CHEAPSKATE The billionaire is proud to campaign on the cheap, milking free media in a way that other candidates only could envy. He functioned through most of the primaries with a

SEE TRUMP, 7A

USC'S FUTURE

The goal: 'More students with less impact'

Development may be chance to reduce traffic

BY AVERY G. WILKS
 awilks@thestate.com

On Sunday mornings, Dick Harpoottian can take a five-minute drive from his Wales Garden home to his downtown Columbia law firm.

But that drive time inflates to 30 minutes when classes are in session at the University of South Carolina's downtown campus, Harpoottian said. Much of that drive is spent waiting at cross lights as students pour to class in





SPORTS
**USC COACH
HAS HOPES**



BUSINESS
**BMW ups
SUV line as
profits slip**

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USA TODAY BARLEY SHORTAGE LEAVES VENEZUELANAS WITHOUT BEER PAGE 1B

GREENVILLE NEWS EXCLUSIVE



SCREENSHOTS FROM THE BODY CAM FOOTAGE OF THE ARREST OF DEONTEA MACKEY BY GREENVILLE POLICE. TOP LEFT: IZEAL WILLIAMS, WHO WAS WALKING WITH MACKEY AT THE TIME OF THE ARREST. TOP RIGHT, OFFICER ALLEN JACOBS. BOTTOM, MACKEY DURING HIS ARREST IN NICHOLTOWN IN 2015.

MACKEY ARREST

Body cam video shows police response, investigation

ANNA LEE
ALEE@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Body cam video, obtained by *The Greenville News* through a public records request, shows the police response and investigation into a report of a robbery in Nicholstown about a year before Greenville police officer Allen

JACOBS would be killed in the same neighborhood.

The incident took place near where Deontea Mackey would fatally shoot Jacobs on March 18, behind a house on Rebecca Street. Moments after killing Jacobs, Mackey would

See **MACKEY**, Page 7A

ONLINE

See the police body cam video of the 2015 arrest at GreenvilleOnline.com.

**Roads
bill's fate
up in air
in House**

TIM SMITH
TSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA — House lawmakers asked questions but took no action Wednesday on a Senate plan that would convert bonds into a \$4 billion funding package to widen interstates, eliminate every load-restricted bridge on state secondary roads and pave primary routes.

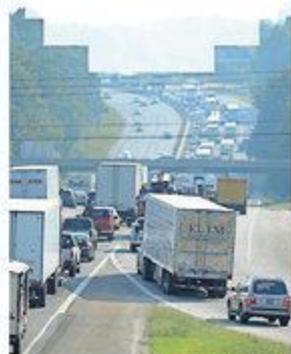
The legislation is eventually to be married with governance reforms for the state's highway agency in negotiations that will take place in the Legislature's waning weeks of this year's session.

Rep. Chip Limehouse, a Charleston Republican who chaired the hearing, told *The Greenville News* no action would be taken on the bill until lawmakers from both chambers agree on a package.

He called the Senate plan a "wobbly punt" by the Legislature this year toward addressing the state's massive infrastructure needs.

"It's better than no plan," he said. "We're under no illusions that we can

See **ROADS**, Page 4A



TRAFFIC FREQUENTLY BACKS UP ON I-85 NORTH BETWEEN WOODRUFF AND PELHAM ROADS.

Sharing secrets can lessen mental illness stigma

LIV OSBY
LOSBY@GANNETT.COM

If secrecy fuels the stigma that surrounds mental illness, Patrick Kennedy says, then speaking out about one's illness can be a powerful tool to defeat it.

"In my book, 'A Common Struggle,' I said that we are only as sick as our secrets," said Kennedy, son of the late U.S.



COURTESY
PATRICK J. KENNEDY

Sen. Ted Kennedy and former congressman from Rhode Island, who will share his story of mental illness and addiction at the Southeastern Symposium on Mental Health in Greenville on Saturday.

"Today, that's the mantra of my life," he told *The*

Greenville News, "and speaking out is something I encourage others to do."

About 43.8 million people — or one in five Americans — has a mental illness, according to the South Carolina Institute of Medicine & Public Health. And 10 million of them suffer from a serious condition such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder.

"When every one of us finds the cour-

age to share our stories, we'll see the old ways of thinking erode," Kennedy said via email, "and we'll begin to see mental illnesses for what they truly are: treatable health conditions from which people recover and live fully, happy and productive lives."

The symposium brings together ex-

See **MENTAL ILLNESS**, Page 4A

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REGION

Department of Justice says NC bathroom law violates rights 4A



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND BLUFFTON

Sunny 72°/52° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET



Hilton Head Islander Carrie Alberg, a family friend, sheds a tear at Alex Arrieta's memorial service with her son, Nicholas, 10, on Wednesday.

Child remembered in songs, laughter, tears

BY LIZ FARRELL



Alex Arrieta lived to be 10 years old.

He was not given enough time to finish elementary school. Or to learn how to drive.

Or to find out why people care about prom or college or weddings.

But in his short years, he had amassed a fortune of friends more vast than those three or four or even seven times his age.

They were the classmates he made laugh when they shouldn't be making any noise at all, adults who marveled at his mood-lifting, ear-touching smiles and strangers who continued to answer his call even after his death on April 27 from complications related to acute myeloid leukemia, a disease he had beaten twice in 14 months.

On Wednesday evening, they were so numerous they simply could not fit under the large pavilion at Honey Horn, where

to be happening at all. Alex was not supposed to have died.

We were not supposed to be here. Doing this. But the crowd — most wearing orange, the color of leukemia awareness, Alex's color — brought a spirit of joy with them, relief felt in between the shoulder-shaking tears and the realization that the happy little boy in the slideshow photos and in the pictures taped to the pillars of the pavilion was no longer here.

Just before the opening prayer, Alex's friend Tristan Horup spotted himself in a photo and couldn't help but tell everyone around him. "That was when I won the jackpot in the arcade," he whispered loudly to me.

In the picture, Tristan holds an armful of tickets, so many they're spilling over in all directions. Alex stands beside him, his mouth and eyes open wide in celebration. That moment was probably

“KEEP FIGHTING. KEEP FIGHTING. DON'T GIVE UP.”

Mr. T, in a tribute video at the memorial service for 10-year-old Alex Arrieta

the Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts fifth-grader was remembered with prayer, song, tears and laughter.

"You're going to have an amazing experience this afternoon," the Rev. Stuart Boehmig said at the start of the memorial service.

It was a bold statement to make to the mourning.

Nothing about a child's memorial could ever be defined as amazing.

This, in fact, was not supposed

to be happening at all. Alex was not supposed to have died.

We were not supposed to be here.

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That moment was probably

SEE CHILD, 7A

ONLINE

Watch a video and see more photos from the memorial at islandpacket.com.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

New road usage fee proposed for 2017 budget

Town estimates spending about \$105.5 million in FY 2017, which begins July 1

Includes proposed \$25 road usage fee to fix, pave dirt roads

Capital improvement spending to increase due to major ongoing projects

BY REBECCA LURYE rlurye@islandpacket.com

A proposed budget for the Town of Hilton Head Island includes the most capital improvement project spending in years and a possible new road usage fee to help maintain and pave dirt roads.

In total, the town estimates it will spend about \$105.5 million in fiscal year 2017, which begins July 1, up 11.4 percent from actual spending in FY 2016 of about \$94.7 million. Council members voted Tuesday to discuss the recommendation, prepared by town manager Steve Riley, at their first budget workshop 4 p.m. May 10.

The proposal estimates spending nearly \$50 million on capital improvement projects alone in FY 2017, up from \$40.7 million this year and \$11.4 million in 2015.

The draft also estimates the town's general fund will require about \$38.9 million in FY 2017, down 0.8 percent from this year, despite the addition of a proposed \$25 road usage fee that would generate about \$730,000 each year to acquire, maintain and pave dirt roads.

There is not currently any money in the town's budget for that work, identified as a top priority for council, other than grants from the Community Development Block Grant program, through which council hopes to pave five roads by 2020.

The town also hopes to receive \$7 million for dirt road paving from a potential 1 percent sales tax hike. The request

SEE BUDGET, 7A

the Sumter ITEM

Relay For Life event raises money for cancer research A8

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Grandmother fights extradition

Sumter opens its heart to injured girl

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@thetern.com

Sumter area residents have opened their hearts to a 7-year-old girl who is suffering from severe burns to her foot, allegedly as the result of child abuse.

The injured child, along with her

9-year-old brother, was brought to Sumter on April 19 by a woman who said she is their grandmother, according to Sumter County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Ken Bell. She reportedly took the girl to KershawHealth Medical Center in Camden for treatment for the burn on April 21.

In addition to the burns, which authorities think resulted from immer-

sion in scalding water, staff at the hospital reported the child also had bruises and other marks on her body consistent with child abuse.

Both children were taken into protective custody, and the girl has been treated at Palmetto Children's Hospital in Columbia for her injuries.

The girl was initially listed in guarded condition, Bell said, and doctors were concerned the foot may have to be amputated because of the severity of the burns and the amount of time they went without treatment. Bell said

doctors had to wait for the girl's condition to improve before she underwent surgery.

After surgery and a skin graft, the girl's condition was upgraded to stable, Bell said.

"She still has a long road to recovery ahead, but doctors seem to be a little more hopeful that the child's foot might be saved," he said.

The girl's plight has prompted numerous people in the area to send gifts

SEE GIRL, PAGE A6



RAYSOR

USC Sumter: Fire Ants on the march

Logan-Owens encourages graduates to work hard

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@thetern.com

More than 90 University of South Carolina Sumter graduates turned their tassels and started a new chapter in their lives during the 2016 commencement exercises in the school's Nettles Auditorium on Wednesday morning.

The graduates were greeted by USC Sumter Dean Michael Sonntag and USC Columbia President Harry Pastides, who both congratulated the group on joining thousands of other graduates in the Fire Ant community and Gamecock nation.

Graduates later received a commencement address from L. Michelle Logan-Owens, chief operating officer of Palmetto Health Tuomey, who told the group that goals can be accomplished through perseverance and hard work.

"If you're going to do something, you should do it well and with honor so you will be glad to put your name on it," she said.

Logan-Owens said being successful is sometimes not an easy task, but failure should not be a deterrent.



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

A University of South Carolina Sumter Fire Ant adorns Julia Sorrells' mortar board as she waits to graduate with an associate of arts degree with honors during the school's Commencement ceremony on Wednesday in the Nettles Auditorium.

"Failing is a part of life," she said. "If success was easy, everyone would do it."

She told the graduates to not let their own fears or discouragement from others keep

them from going after their goals.

Logan-Owens said some people will try to hold your failures against you, but who you were in the past is not who you

will be tomorrow. Be as enthusiastic about your goals tomorrow as you are today, she said.

Your vocabulary should include "I can" and "no excuse," she said.

Just because others have not been successful does not mean you will not succeed, Logan-Owens said.

SEE FIRE ANTS, PAGE A6

S.C. National Guard unit going to Guantanamo Bay

COLUMBIA (AP) — Military police from the South Carolina Army National Guard have been ordered to prepare for a possible deployment to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba as early as this fall, a Guard official said Tuesday.

About 100 members of the 131st Military Police Co. in Beaufort have been told to prepare for a potential deployment.

spokeswoman Col. Cindi King.

"The unit is currently scheduled to be on orders just under a year," King said.

But she said she could not specify any deployment date for security reasons. She also cautioned it would not be unusual if the order is modified or rescinded before the scheduled deployment.

"Things can change," she said.

ramped down."

King said the unit has specialized training to meet the requirements of such a mission.

She said the unit was informed of the assignment to Guantanamo by the National Guard Bureau in October 2015.

It would be the first time a South Carolina National Guard force has

which is in charge of the U.S. military prison holding about 80 suspected terrorists.

King said the 131st is one of three military police units in the state National Guard.

King said the Beaufort military police unit was first organized in 2010, and this would be the first deployment for the soldiers as a unit.



CITY PREPS FOR SPRING FLING THIS WEEKEND

ESCAPE, D1



REBELS ROLL INTO NEXT ROUND IN SOFTBALL

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

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Complete forecast, B6

NEWS DIGEST

Families seek answers in secret 9/11 pages

NEW YORK — Fifteen years after the attacks that killed her husband, Lorie Van Auken thinks she still hasn't been told the whole truth about 9/11.

She wants to know what's in 28 classified pages locked away in a basement room of the U.S. Capitol. They describe investigative leads about "specific sources of foreign support" for the terrorists and might shed light on possible Saudi connections.

The secrecy "gnaws at you every day," Van Auken says. "Fifteen years is long enough. We want to stop guessing."

She soon may. President Barack Obama has hinted that at least portions of the 28 pages may be released shortly amid growing calls to reveal what some see as a hidden chapter in the explanation of Sept. 11.

Victims' relatives say they and the public deserve full transparency about the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil, and some argue that continued secrecy raises troubling questions about who or what is being shielded, and why.

— Associated Press

CAMPAIGN 2016



How Trump won, while defying politics

Donald Trump took the rules of modern politics, trashed

CAMPAIGN 2016

A clear path with lingering doubts

Trump's open route to nomination causes agony for some in GOP

By Julie Pace and Steve Peoples
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's last Republican foe, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, ended his quixotic presidential campaign Wednesday, cementing Trump's remarkable triumph as his party's presumptive nominee and launching him toward a likely fall battle with

Hillary Clinton. Some reluctant Republicans began to rally around Trump, but others agonized over their party's future.

Trump billionaire businessman vowed to unite the splintered GOP, even as he was bitingly dismissive of members who have been critical of his campaign.

"Those people can go away and maybe come back in eight years after we served two terms," he said on NBC's "Today" Show. "Honestly, there are some people I really don't want."

Clinton, in her first remarks

since Trump's new status was crystalized, said she was more than prepared to handle the kind of deeply personal attacks that helped defeat Trump's Republican rivals.

"To me, this is the classic case of a blustering, bullying guy," the all-but-certain Democratic nominee told CNN.

The long and chaotic Republican primary came to an abrupt end after Trump's decisive victory Tuesday in Indiana. His win pushed Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, his closest rival, out of the race, with Kasich following on Wednesday.

"The people of our country changed me," Kasich said during an emotional speech announcing the end of his campaign. "They changed me with the stories of their lives."

Trump's takeover of the GOP marks one of the most stunning political feats in modern political history. A first-time candidate, he eschewed traditional fundraising and relied more on his own star power than television advertising to draw attention. He flouted political decorum with

SEE CAMPAIGN, A7

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES

Score one for the little guys

Fourth-place finish a victory for Jeremy Clements Racing

By Monte Dutton
For the Herald-Journal

Occasionally, even for the struggling race driver trying to make it on his own, things work out. The hare does not always beat the tortoise, but that's the way to bet.

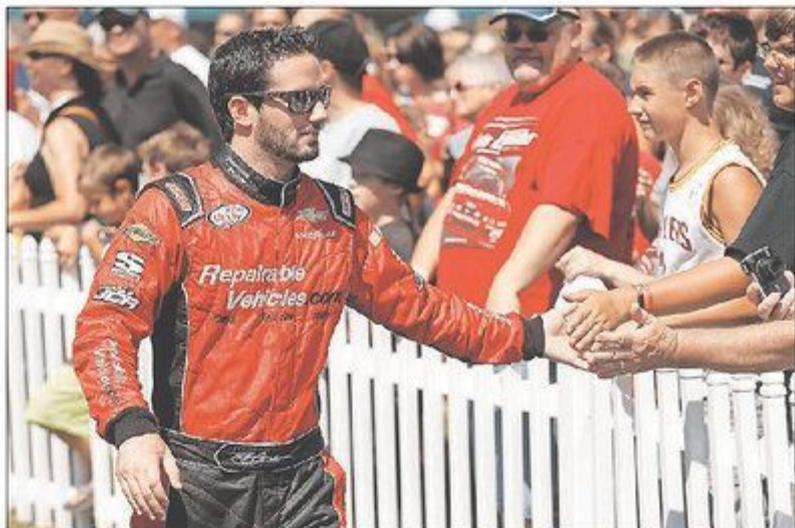
Top-10 finishes are hard to come by for Jeremy Clements.

A Spartanburg native with a Spartanburg team, Clements has long been praised for his talent, potential and willingness to persevere. At Talladega Superspeedway on Saturday, all that "want to" paid off with a fourth-place finish in the Sparks Energy 300, his highest finish ever in an Xfinity Series race.

"It wasn't a win," Clements said Wednesday, "but it sure felt like one."

The No. 51 Chevrolet Clements drove at Talladega was no tortoise, but it wasn't built, polished and appointed lavishly like the entries from teams owned by the likes of Roger Penske, Joe Gibbs and Richard Childress, either.

Jeremy Clements Racing has five employees, "two or three



Jeremy Clements is seen during driver introductions for a race last year. The Spartanburg native posted a fourth-place finish Saturday at Talladega, Ala. TOM E. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extrusions.

The Xfinity Series, allegedly the Triple-A minor league of NASCAR, is mostly dominated by vast, monied Sprint Cup teams with only marginally less vast and monied Xfinity subsidiaries. Clements heads a team competing against corporations.

Clements, 31, led seven laps at Talladega after starting 34th.

"It's all I've ever done since I was 7. I don't know anything else that I'm good at. It's what I love, what I want to do. We've got good people working for us."

— Jeremy Clements

top-five finishes and 21 top 10s in 40 starts in that series from 2002 through 2008.

Racing is in Clements' blood, his pedigree and his way of life.

Plate racing on NASCAR's largest oval offers a small window of opportunity to the sport's rank and file. The aerodynamic nuances make



Morning News

THURSDAY MAY 5, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

A p.m. shower or thunderstorm. High 73, low 48. DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

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SALUTE TO NURSES

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

Senate returns \$7.5B budget

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Senate has approved a \$7.5 billion state budget that puts an additional \$300 million into K-12 education, covers the state's expenses from last fall's historic flooding and provides \$40 million in grants to flood-devastated farmers.

Senators' 36-5 vote Wednesday returned their spending plans for the fiscal year beginning July 1 to the House.

"I'm extremely happy," said Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence. "We met a lot of needs of the people of this state. We couldn't meet them all."

Senators who voted against the

budget criticized it for being the state's largest ever.

"As our state's population grows, our needs have grown," Leatherman said.

Differences in the chambers' plans include employee pay. The Senate doubled workers' cost-of-living increase to 4 percent. That would be the largest raise given to all workers since 2005.

The Senate's \$300 million for road and bridge construction is roughly \$100 million less than the House plan. But a separate Senate bill uses \$200 million of that, redirected from annual vehicle sales taxes and fees, to borrow \$2.2 billion and jumpstart highway improvements. House leaders have said they like the idea.

Senators added \$2.4 million in the budget for police body cameras. But they cut in half the amount allocated on replenishing sand along South Carolina's coast, to \$20 million.

Sen. Shane Martin, who voted against the Senate plan, nevertheless thanked his colleagues

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Tour of Homes starts this weekend

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
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FLORENCE — The 13th annual Tour of Homes will begin this weekend in the Pee Dee.

The tour is presented by the Home Builders Association of the Greater Pee Dee and will feature more than 20 homes throughout the Pee Dee region. Tour times will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 7 and May 14 and 1 to 5 p.m. on May 8 and May 15. Admission is free.

People who wish to attend the tours can pick up a tour book from Lowe's home improvement stores in Florence and Hartsville. The tour book will include information about the featured homes, builder directory, rules of conduct during Tour of Homes, 2015 Tour of Homes winners and more.

Wesley Johnson, the 2016 Home Builders Association president, said the tour will give ideas to people who want to build a house.

"Last year was good. We really had a good turnout," Johnson said. "All those associates, they jump in and they help us with this thing, and I think it pays off well. And you see their products when they walk in the houses."

Several associate members assist with the Tour of Homes such as Ferguson Enterprises, Palmetto Brick Company and Mauricio Masonry, among others.

The homes to be viewed feature popular open floor plans, innovative ideas and energy-efficient construction, according to a media advisory. The qualities and amenities of each home are said to fit every buyer's

Knights charge into playoffs



West Florence varsity baseball players celebrate after dumping a cooler of water on coach Josh Brown as he talks to the media after the game on Wednesday.

The West Florence varsity baseball team faced off against South Aiken High School for the Class 4A district championship game on Wednesday. The Knights won in the ninth inning by a score of 4-3, and will advance to the lower state playoffs on Saturday. For more information and photos from the Knights' victory, visit scnw.com and see Page 1D.

Howe Springs to hold groundbreaking for fire station



A new headquarters, training ground to begin construction

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
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establishment in 1970, Howe Springs Fire has added six stations to pro-

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