

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/13/2014 10:25:11 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, March 13, 2014

SC Front Pages – Thursday, March 13, 2014



Early aggression

Wilson Hall, Thomas Sumter baseball teams battle in early season meeting

B1

Sumter, Lee form development 'Link'

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

bmarchant@theitem.com
(803) 774-1272

When a South Carolina county goes out looking for a new business or industry to land, it sometimes helps

to have some backup.

With that goal in mind, Sumter and Lee counties are forging a new economic development alliance, to be called "The Link."

Lee and Sumter county councils approved simulta-

neous ordinances Tuesday ratifying the outlines of the new alliance after negotiations between the two counties' economic development authorities.

"It's like a team sport," said Jay Schwedler, presi-

dent and CEO of the Sumter Economic Development Board. "It's easier to partner with a county you already have a relationship with for the good of the whole."

Before this agreement,

Sumter County was one of the few S.C. counties not to belong to a regional development alliance, which allows local economic developers to combine assets and receive

SEE THE LINK, PAGE A10



JIM HILLEY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Clarendon County Sheriff's Department Capt. Ricky Richards describes Wednesday that he and a state trooper were the first to clear the scene of the 2011 killings of Jayden Caraway and Maxine Caraway.

Testimony continues in double murder trial

BY JIM HILLEY

jimh@theitem.com
(803) 774-1214

Public defender Scott Robinson worked to sow seeds of doubt in the second day of testimony in the double murder trial of Justin Johnson in Manning on Wednesday.

Johnson's ex-girlfriend Kaisha Caraway, the mother of 9-month-old Jayden Caraway and granddaughter of Maxine Caraway, the two shooting victims, returned to the stand to finish her testimony.

Robinson focused on why it seemed her chief concern in the days after the deaths was in receiving an insurance settlement rather than mourning her dead family members.

The defense introduced a video interview with Kaisha Caraway that two South Carolina Law Enforcement Division agents taped the day after the funerals in which she focused her questions on the insurance money and DNA tests concerning who Jayden's father was.

"Why did you call the bank to check on money from the hospital?" Robinson asked after viewing the video.

"M'Keya (her 2-year-old daughter) needed diapers," she

Forum members meet governor, advocate for change in education



PHOTOS BY RAYTEVIA EVANS / THE SUMTER ITEM

After the S.C. House passed Gov. Nikki Haley's K-12 Education Reform Initiative, Haley speaks with some of Sumter School District Teacher Forum's members and thanks them for the work they do for children in South Carolina. She reassured them that the Initiative is a multi-year endeavor and is only the first step in improving education in South Carolina. Teacher Forum members spent Wednesday in Columbia speaking with local legislators about issues and thanking them for making education a priority in the past few years.

Group visits Columbia on day House approves statewide initiative

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS

revians@theitem.com
(803) 774-1214

Sumter School District Teacher Forum members met with local and state legislation in Columbia on Wednesday to advocate for education and improving public school systems in South Carolina.

Chairman Trevor Ivey said the purpose of the trip was to get teachers more comfortable and more familiar with political procedure and how they can speak with their local elected officials about is-



"My colleagues, we may say we know, but we don't know everything. So we thank you for what you do and for being here today to be advocates."

REP. DAVID WEEKS,
D-SUMTER

"I really appreciate you all coming out

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

SC House adds \$181M for K-12

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

Gov. Haley thanks leaders for education budget

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley thanked House leaders Wednesday for a budget plan she said takes a historic step in providing a good education to all South Carolina students.

Haley's praise came shortly after the House sent its \$7 billion spending plan for state taxes to the Senate. Its additional \$181 million for K-12 schools expands on an education

plan she unveiled in January after a series of meetings last year with teachers, administrators, legislators and business leaders.

"I am absolutely thrilled," Haley said. "This House said we are no longer going to educate ... a student based on where they live. We are now going to start to educate children based on the fact they deserve

a good education and that is our future workforce."

The budget plan gives more to students in poor, rural districts without taking money away from other districts that are able to better equip classrooms through local property taxes. Changes include a first-ever weighting for poverty, which translates to an additional \$97 million

spent on students who qualify for free- and reduced-price meals. It would also spend 20 percent more on children whose primary language isn't English and therefore need one-on-one help.

Democrats have long fought for such weightings.

Rep. Kenny Bingham, whose subcommittee writes the K-12 budget,

said the governor pushing for the change made the difference.

"When the governor puts her stamp of approval on it — when she's inclusive like she was — it makes transformation possible," said Bingham, R-Cayce. "This was a heavy lift. K-12 is a big winner in this year's budget."

Despite the increases, Democrats criticized the plan as still not complying with state law. Fully funding the "base

See BUDGET, page 4A

ELECTIONS

Four each file for D51, D52 school boards

Ware Shoals, Ninety Six districts have 2 open seats

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

The filing deadline for the Ware Shoals School District 51 and the Ninety Six School District 52 board of trustees seats closed Wednesday, with four candidates filing in each district.

Both districts have two seats open on their boards. The elections will take place May 13.

Candidates who filed for the District 51 board are Ty Grogan, Bruce Holland, former Ware Shoals mayor Sonny Frederick and current board member Joey Ward.

Ware Shoals School District 51 candidates

- Ty Grogan
- Bruce Holland
- Sonny Frederick
- Joey Ward, incumbent

Ninety Six School District 52 candidates

- Ronnie Peeler
- Nancy B. Werts
- Dayne Pruitt, incumbent
- Deborah Bolton, incumbent

Grogan hopes to bring his varied background in education, as a math teacher and an information technology specialist in the Abbeville County School District, to the board.

"The main reason that I'm running is that I've always had a passion for education," Grogan said.

Frederick, on the other hand, hopes to address the dress code, taxes and discipline in the district, if elected to the board.

"Our teachers need to be free to discipline these students as best they can," Frederick said. He added his background in finance could be helpful in the district's budget process.

Holland, a native of Ware Shoals who has had four sons in the district at various times, hopes to become more involved in the community through the school board. He is involved with the Ware Shoals Youth Association and coached youth baseball in the community for many years. Incumbent Ward could not be reached for comment.

Candidates for the District 52 board include Ronnie Peeler, Nancy B. Werts and current board members Dayne Pruitt and Deborah Bolton.

Peeler, a former teacher and administrator with 20 years of educational experience in the district and a total of 36 years of educational experience in the Upstate area, hopes to bring the perspective of a former teacher to the board.

"I would like somebody to be on the board that understands the teachers' side of it," Peeler said.

Werts said her decision to run for the board was inspired by her parental concerns, with two second-graders in the district.

"I just wanted to see if I could make a difference in our school system," Werts said.



MADDY JONES/INDEX-JOURNAL

Prevo Rodgers, left, and Dwayne Sanders play guitar and hash out hooks and ideas as part of the very first stage of the songwriting process inside their creation studio in Saluda.

GOOD VIBRATIONS

Ninety Six native's song 'Lies and Bruises' spurs anti-domestic violence movement

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

I t all started with a single D chord on a guitar one night at a friend's house. Dwayne Moore, who was learning to play the six-stringed acoustic instrument, stroked the note for the first time during the late-night session. And the sound that rang out struck a chord within.

"It was something that just really hit me about the way the vibrations of that chord felt," Moore said. "When they showed me a chord and I played it, you could feel the harmony come off the vibrations of that guitar. There was like a moment. It was a day that changed my life. My life had been such a mess, it just felt good to feel that. And I thought, 'Wow! That's really what life is supposed to be like. It's supposed to be in harmony and in accord like that.'"

That moment in time was the first kiss

in a marriage between Moore and music, which continues to resonate today. Moore built off the mid-2011 moment, writing his first song soon afterward. In the three years since, he's penned more than 500 tunes and molded himself into a full-fledged songwriter. The 46-year-old Ninety Six native creates original content for a pair of area music studios and writes songs for musicians across the country, including some of the industry's biggest artists.

"It's a really humbling experience," he said. "I've always said music literally saved my life. It gave me a way to just express what was on the inside."

Moore became a songwriter after a 15-year career in law enforcement that included three years as a Greenwood County deputy and more than a decade as a game warden for the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. After coasting through a self-proclaimed life of charm, his good fortune turned for the worse and he lost every-

thing during a three-month span in 2011 he described as "90 days of Hell." The stretch brought Moore to his knees and rendered him stone broke.

"I was broke. It was no joke kind of broke," he chuckled. "I always tell people I had to look up to look down. It was hard. It's really embarrassing to try to buy \$10 worth of gas with nothing but pennies."

It was during that time Moore met a former musician who taught him how to play the guitar, and ultimately introduced him to the life of music writing. The two played for hours into the night and Moore learned his first chords at his friend's house.

One day after months of learning, Moore decided to try his hand at songwriting. Frustrated from losing everything, he remembered sitting on a couch in his father's house and looking at a jar filled with pennies from which he financed his day-to-day living expenses. Moore scribbled his first words as a writer, and they captured the sheer pain of being flat broke: "Well this is hell, and hell so far...living off pennies in a mason jar."

Those words would become the chorus

See SONG, page 3A

METRO, 3A

HELP FOR JOY



METRO, 3A

Traffic plan
for Cabela's
opening set

The Greenville News

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THURSDAY,
MARCH 13, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

WITH NO ONE IN PURSUIT, FUGITIVES COMMIT CRIMES PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

More aid urged for mental health

Advocates rally at Statehouse to
push for improvements to system

By Tim Smith

Staff writer
tsmith1@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — Tyler Pearson, a member of Gateway in Greenville, an agency providing programs for those in recovery from mental illness, says he enjoys mental health rallies because they show support for those in recovery.

"It means a lot," he said Wednesday, minutes after a rally concluded on the Statehouse steps. "It's a great opportunity."

Pearson was among more than 100 people, including state and local officials, mental health professionals, friends and family members of those suffering from mental illness and those in recovery who gathered to hear lawmakers and state officials talk about the importance of mental health and plans for improving the system.

"We are here today to challenge our leaders and to educate them on the systemic failures of our broken institutions, and to encourage them to take action," said Paton Blough, a Greenville

See CARE, Page 4A

Fix sought for election law problem

State solicitor says combined
boards are unconstitutional

By Tim Smith

Staff writer

COLUMBIA — State lawmakers are warning that another flawed election law could make the debacle of 2012 that knocked hundreds of candidates out of primaries seem tame by comparison.

Sen. Larry Martin of Pickens, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told the Senate on Wednesday that the office of state Attorney General Alan Wilson has issued an opinion concluding that a 2008 law under which most of the state's counties combined election and voter registration boards is unconstitutional.

The reason, state Solicitor General Robert Cook explained in the opinion, is that under the state's Constitution, the Legislature is prohibited from passing laws that are customized for certain parts of the state but not others.

"Act No. 312 is simply an amalgam of laws,

NEW TAX CREDIT LURES BUSINESS



Selah Genomics is one of the companies that has benefited from the state's tax break for investors. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

High-growth companies praise incentive's impact

26

Businesses filed under the High Growth Small Business Job Creation Act from June to January

100

Full-time, part-time, and temporary jobs were created from those 26 businesses

\$20M

Capital raised at the time of registration, with over \$7 million of this capital categorized as qualified investments

By Angela Davis

Staff writer
davis1@greenvilleonline.com

Jon-Michial Carter said he had many reasons to move his health care data company from Houston to Greenville a few months ago — love for the community, the pro-business environment, and the NEXT Innovation Center were just a few.

But a clincher for the founder and CEO of ChartSpan Medical Technologies was the tax credit of 35 percent that South Carolina now offers affluent so-called "angel investors" who put their money in early-stage, high-growth businesses.

"We were a Texas-based company. We looked at the entire landscape of whether to stay in Texas or move to South Carolina," said Carter.

"We're proud to say we're a South Carolina-based company and one of the biggest reasons was that tax break and the future investment we'll be able to raise.

"Being able to go to an in-



Jon-Michial Carter, CEO and founder of ChartSpan Medical Technologies, says angel investors like the return the tax break offers. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

"Being able to go to an investor and say, 'Here's a 35 percent return on your money,' is one helluva carrot. It not only puts South Carolina in a great position to recruit businesses, but it puts us, the businesses, in a great position to recruit investment."

JON-MICHIAL CARTER,
founder and CEO of ChartSpan Medical Technologies

See CREDIT, Page 4A



CHARLESTONSCENE

Fashion Week preview

PLUS: St. Patrick's Day events,
Charleston Film Festival & more

SECTION E



Bill heads to Senate

SOUTH, B1

The Post and Courier

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THURSDAY, March 13, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

\$37.6M to help relieve some I-526 headaches



Traffic backs up during rush hour Wednesday at the intersection of International Boulevard and Interstate 526. The Charleston Area Transportation Study Policy Committee has budgeted \$37.6 million in 2018 and 2019 to boost I-526 capacity, including improving intersections with the highway.

Plan to address 2 points that choke traffic; Berkeley getting \$23M for Clements Ferry widening project

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
and BRENDA RINDGE
pfindlay@postandcourier.com
brindge@postandcourier.com

Motorists along parts of increasingly crowded Interstate 526 could get some relief down the road with nearly \$38 million in improvements included in a new transportation spending plan for the tri-county area.

The idea is to upgrade the choke points that clog traffic where I-526 meets International Boulevard in North Charleston, and in West Ashley at the highway's intersection with U.S. Highway 17 and Sam Rittenberg Boulevard.

Poll
Which of these road projects do you think is the most important? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

The state Department of Transportation asked the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments to budget \$37.6 million in 2018 and 2019 toward the I-526 projects, said Dan Frazier, senior planner for the council.

This money is for capacity improvements, and includes not yet-designed improvements at interchanges, as well as re-configuring of on- and off-

ramps," Frazier said in an email. The bulk of the money, he said, would go to improving the ramps.

The Charleston Area Transportation Study Policy Committee on Monday approved funding the I-526 project and other road work in the Transportation Improvement Plan for 2014-19.

CHATS, composed of leaders from across the tri-county area, oversees much of the transportation planning for the area. Funding for the 2014-19 transportation plan is a mix of federal, state and local money.

Please see **ROADS**, Page A6.

Other road spending

Additional spending in the new plan:

- Harbor View Road **\$4 million**
- U.S. Highway 78 **\$2 million**
- Myrtlebank Highway **\$12 million**
- Traffic signal system improvements **\$5 million**
- S.C. Highway 41 **\$2 million**

S'ville council targets loitering

Activist learns more, drops opposition

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

SUMMERVILLE — Community activist Louis Smith was all set to oppose a toughening of the town's loitering law. Then he learned more about it. "It's basically to protect the citizens of Summerville," he told Town Council on Wednesday night.

The law passed a preliminary vote unanimously. No one else spoke. Council members did not comment. Concerns that the proposed law violated personal rights to congregate had been raised earlier by Smith and the American Civil Liberties Union's state chapter. A final vote is expected at the council's April meeting.

The gist of the law is that if police see someone on private property who looks suspicious, officers can question and potentially detain the person. Currently the town law applies only to public property. That worries at least

Please see **LOITER**, Page A5.



Poll

What do you think about Summerville's proposal to allow police to stop someone on private property for loitering "under circumstances that warrant alarm"? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.

Candidate addresses hot topics

C of C finalist gives his views on merger proposal, diversity

BY DIANE KNIGH
dknigh@postandcourier.com

One of the first tasks of the next president of the College of Charleston will be to help the school heal from a contentious search process, said Dennis "Jody" Encarnacion, one of three finalists for the school's top post. And the healing process must begin immediately, he said. "Who ever gets this job will have no honeymoon period."

Encarnacion is a 1974 graduate of the college who has kept close ties to his alma mater, including serving on its Foundation Board. The conflict around the search "is like a knife to me," he said.

Public reaction to the selection process has been contentious largely

Please see **COLLEGE**, Page A5.

Coroner drops 'suicide' ruling in '98 mystery

New finding: Manner of James Is. nurse's death 'undetermined'

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

For 16 years, Susan Shaw's family and friends insisted she did not take her own life when she was found slumped and unconscious inside an exhaust-filled garage at her James Island home.

They pointed to her reputation as a bright, hard-working young nurse. They noted that her widowed husband, a state trooper, refused to answer investigators' questions after her 1998 death. Things didn't add up, they said, and they pleaded for someone to

reconsider the finding of "suicide" listed on her death certificate.

That day has finally arrived. After a six-month review of the case, Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten said she is changing the official ruling on Shaw's manner of death to "undetermined."

Wooten, who was not coroner when Shaw died, said she doesn't have the evidence to conclusively say it was a homicide, but she has strong doubts that the 26-year-old woman killed herself.

Wooten said the initial investigation appeared to have been compro-

mised, and subsequent developments in Shaw's husband's life — including his fatal shooting by police in Arizona — raised new doubts about the 1998 ruling. She began reviewing the case after The Post and Courier raised questions about the findings in a May 2013 article.

"The more I learned about her, there was nothing that said this young lady planned to take her own life," Wooten said. "There is enough there that I believe to leave it as a suicide would be wrong."

Please see **DEATH**, Page A6.



Tests in 1998 revealed that Susan Shaw succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. Her death was originally ruled a suicide.

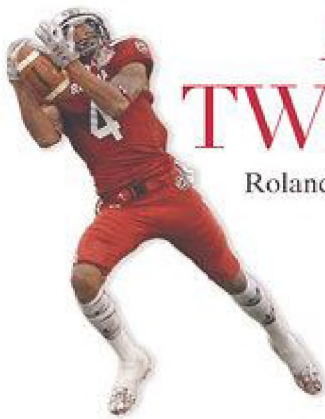


Clear High 56, Low 31. Complete 5-day forecast, B8.

Bridge...B25 Crossroads...B4, E27
Business...B6 Editorials...A10
Classifieds...D1 Horoscopes...F29
Comics...E26-29 Movies...E10
Obituaries...B4
The South...B1
Sports...C1
Television...E30

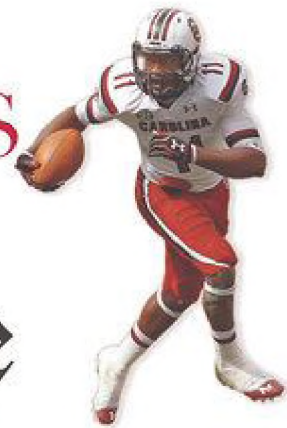
Charleston Deals today

Cantina's
\$10 for \$20 at Cantina's in Summerville.
See A2



A TALE OF TWO WIDEOUTS

Roland and Cooper top USC spring depth chart. **C1**



The State

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

EXCLUSIVE | STATE GRAND JURY PROBE OF HOUSE SPEAKER

Harrell's lawyers secretly trying to kick attorney general off case

Closed-door hearing sought; Alan Wilson will fight to remain as prosecutor



Harrell



Wilson

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

Lawyers for S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell are secretly trying to get a state judge to remove state Attorney General Alan Wilson as the prosecutor in on-

going State Grand Jury proceedings against Harrell, according to sources close to law enforcement who are familiar with the situation.

Harrell's lawyers, who include attorneys Gedney Howe and Bart Daniel,

both of Charleston, are seeking a closed-door hearing before Judge Robert Hood of Columbia to try to persuade Hood to secretly remove Wilson, the sources said.

A secret decision by a lone judge in a hearing

closed to the public that resulted in disqualifying South Carolina's top elected prosecutor from prosecuting a high-profile case against one of the state's most powerful politicians would be unprecedented.

The State Grand Jury is

investigating Harrell for possible misuse of campaign contributions and possible misuse of his legislative position. He insists he has done nothing wrong. Wilson referred the

SEE HARRELL PAGE A5

CIVIL RIGHTS IN COLUMBIA: WHY OUR STORY MATTERS



FILE PHOTOGRAPHY/THE STATE

A rally on Sept. 15, 1963, by the NAACP in Columbia

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

EXCLUSIVE

Ex-chief candidate criticizes city leaders

Fisher withdraws from search, cites lack of consistency in leadership

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
and CLIF LeBLANC
nophillips@thestate.com;
cleblanc@thestate.com

A candidate for Columbia police chief on Wednesday leveled tough criticism toward city officials as he withdrew from the search.

The field of finalists was narrowed to two after Tony Fisher, the former director of the Spartanburg Department of Public Safety, sent a one-paragraph letter to city manager Teresa Wilson, removing his name from the field of candidates.

In an interview with The State newspaper, Fisher said the city lacked consistency within its leadership and questioned why interim Chief Ruben



Fisher

INSIDE

City Council

distances

itself from

the idea of

letting the

sheriff run

the police

depart-

ment.

Plus, the

remaining

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, March 13, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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S.C. granted FEMA aid

Obama signs request; 21 counties to receive help

BY MAAVAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Aiken County will receive a portion of federal aid after the White House approved South Carolina's request for federal disaster relief on Wednesday.

President Barack Obama signed the declaration after Gov. Nikki Haley requested that 21 out of 46 counties receive aid. Obama previously declared South Carolina a state of emergency during the ice storm, starting the communication process with the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency, also known as FEMA. A disaster declaration essentially activates an array of federal programs to assist in response and recovery efforts. A state of emergency is declared by a governor or president during a disaster so that government can suspend normal procedures to

regain control.

The ice storm that downed branches, snapped trees and left thousands without power caused more than \$430 million in damage in the state, according to the Associated Press.

Federal funding will be made available to state and local governments,

including Aiken and surrounding counties. Nonprofit agencies also qualify to receive aid for emergency work and the replacement or repair of buildings damaged from Feb. 10 to Feb. 14.

Please see FEMA, Page 16A

'Give him your kidney'

Dental hygienist gives gift of life

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Many people are afraid of the dentist office. But one Windsor man went in for a routine cleaning and left with not only a friend for life, but the gift of life.

Corey Hymon will undergo a kidney transplant on Friday after suffering

VIDEO

To hear more about this story, visit www.aikenstandard.com

from renal failure for six years. Not too far away from him will be his donor and dental hygienist, Pam Ochiltree.

Hymon had just started going to Owings Sam & Owings Dentists in North Augusta in 2008 when he noticed some knee pain, he said during an interview on Wednesday. He was scheduled for surgery, and it was discovered during pre-op that his kidney function was low. A specialist later told him it was at 15 percent.

Hymon began dialysis treatments in August 2009, going for four hours a day, three days a week. He was also put on multiple donor registration lists.

"You can get on multiple lists," he said. "It increases your chances, except you can only do one hospital per state."

Ochiltree said part of her job is keeping up with Hymon's medical history, so through his six-month visits to the dentist, she stayed tuned in on his knee pain and, eventually, his kidney failure and need for a transplant.

"He was talking about the possible need to do dialysis," she said. "When I was cleaning his teeth one



Corey Hymon, right, will undergo a transplant on Friday, during which he'll receive a kidney from his dental hygienist, Pam Ochiltree, left.



Corey Hymon, right, will undergo a transplant on Friday during which he'll receive a kidney from his dental hygienist, Pam Ochiltree, left.

time, I felt very strongly that the lord was saying, 'Give him your kidney.' And I chuckled and kind of blew it off like, 'OK, yeah right.'"

Six months later in 2010, Ochiltree said Hymon was still having compli-

cations, both from the kidney failure and donors that fell through for one reason or another. He found out one transplant wouldn't happen two days out from the surgery.

"I felt again, very strongly: 'Give

him your kidney,'" she said. She then contacted Georgia Regents Medical Center to begin the testing process, the first stage of which consisted of drawing about 20 tubes of blood.

"Not only does our blood have to be compatible, but the tissue has to be compatible, so they would know right away if his body would reject my kidney," she said. Next came a 24-hour urine collection.

"That's the point that I got to before my sister called and said, 'Don't give your kidney away; my kidney is failing,'" Ochiltree recalled. "I was torn because I hated to let him down."

In late 2011, Ochiltree began the testing process for her sister, which she said was a "fiasco" from the start.

Please see GIFT, Page 16A

Police seek armed robber

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

An unknown man robbed a York Street check cashing business at gunpoint on Wednesday, according to the Aiken Department of Public Safety.

The incident happened about at 10 a.m. at the Approved Cash Advance store in the Reid's shopping center on York Street, according to Capt. Marty Sawyer, a spokesman for Aiken Public Safety. The suspect had a handgun and left through the back of the business after taking an undisclosed amount of money. He is described as a black male wearing black clothing and a camouflage scarf on his face, police said.

The Aiken County bloodhound tracking team was on the scene. It was not clear if the suspect left on foot or in a car. Sawyer said police are reviewing surveillance video footage. No arrests had been made as of press time on Wednesday.

Please see POLICE, Page 16A

Gusty winds whip through Aiken; many lose power

Just a month after an ice storm caused thousands of Aiken County residents to lose power, some people in the area noticed that daunting flickering of lights on Wednesday night due to strong winds.

Aiken County was under a wind advisory until about 2 a.m. today, and the National Weather Service reported winds blowing west-northwest between 20 and 25 mph.

The gusty winds caused some complications in the area.

Power went out in spots on Whiskey Road, Silver Bluff Road and East Pine Log Road, and there were reports of power lines down throughout the city. Residents in the vicinity of Graniteville and Vaulchuse were also reporting outages through social media.

The strong winds brought down tree branches left vulnerable by February's ice storm.

Aiken Public Safety reported traffic signals had been affected by the outages earlier on Wednesday night, but many of those issues were quickly resolved.

SCE&G reported roughly 1,750 outages in Aiken County as of 8:00 p.m.

AREA DEATHS

Debbie A. Wilson, Augusta
Dorothy "Dotty" Jean Nichols
Ketzenberg Yappell, Easley
Elodia Adamo Foster, Aiken
Susie Burris Morgan, Aiken
Thomas M. McGahee, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

INSIDE TODAY



Legislators talk MOX



Profile: Anne Campbell



New program will help



HIGH: 62
LOW: 43
Weather, 6B

**\$19 for oil change,
tire rotation — usually
\$44** **dealsaver.com/Beaufort**

OBAMA BACKS UKRAINE

President says U.S., international community would be 'forced to apply a cost' if Russia doesn't withdraw from Crimea 6A



The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, March 13, 2014

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BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOLS

District to adopt new screening process

Outside company will conduct background checks on volunteers, prospective employees

By SARAH BOWMAN

sbowman@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8138

The Beaufort County School District will soon screen volunteers more thoroughly, after several recent incidents in which volunteers faced legal problems,

officials said.

Within the month, the school district plans to hire an outside company to conduct background checks of individuals who want to volunteer in the district. Applications for the work are being accepted and will be narrowed down

soon, superintendent Jeff Moss said.

Not all school volunteers will need to be screened, said head of human resources Alice Walton. The district is determining the kind of volunteers who will require screening.

"The bottom line: What we want is a

more secure process to bring volunteers into the district," Walton said.

The new screening process will not only be for volunteers. The company and system also will be used to conduct background checks on prospective employees, Moss said.

Beaufort County schools currently use internal software, called WinOcular, for checks on volunteers. The district also runs background checks through the S.C. Law Enforcement Division for

Please see DISTRICT on 9A

IN PORT ROYAL

Town Council gives nod on code

By ERIN MOODY

emoody@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8184

Rules could soon change regarding what can be built where in the town of Port Royal.

Town Council unanimously granted preliminary approval to proposed form-based code, associated maps and other changes at its meeting Wednesday night. The new rules could be approved in the coming months.

Draft documents for the code are available on the town's website, www.portroyal.org.

Please see COUNCIL on 9A

Obama wants more salaried workers to get overtime pay

By JIM KUHNHENN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bypassing Congress, President Barack Obama intends to order changes in overtime rules so employers would be required to pay millions more workers for the extra time they put in on the job.

The rules, which would not likely take effect until 2015, are aimed at workers currently designated as supervisory employees but who are exempt from

Please see OVERTIME on 9A

WORKERS POUR CONCRETE FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL FOUNDATION AT

CHARLES & CRAVEN



THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

Workers for Site Source, of Moncks Corner, work with Lowcountry Concrete Inc., of Ridgeland, on Wednesday to pour concrete for the new traffic signal foundation on the corner of Charles and Craven streets in Beaufort. Workers are filling the 16-foot-hole foundation with water to keep the walls from collapsing while pouring concrete from the bottom up.

TAX PAYMENTS

Treasurer: Taxes would rise if fees are cut

Henderson won't seek re-election

By ZACH MURDOCK

zmurdock@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8147

A tax increase would be inevitable if state lawmakers prohibit local governments from charging a fee when people pay their taxes with a credit card, according to the Beaufort County treasurer.

budget proposal. It's being sponsored by Charleston-area lawmakers.

Reps. Leon Stavrinakis, a Democrat, and Jim Merrill, a Republican, say the fees are an unfair burden, especially when some taxpayers are taking on credit card debt to pay their taxes.

By ZACH MURDOCK

zmurdock@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8147

Beaufort County Treasurer Doug Henderson will not seek re-election this

MORE ONLINE

For video of Beaufort County Treasurer Doug Henderson announcing his retirement, please click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.

SALARY THRESHOLD



Coming to theaters this spring

escape inside



Herald-Journal

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5 Things to read today



SEC tourney win

Duane Notice, above, led South Carolina's hot 3-point shooting with a career-high 23 points and the Gamecocks beat Auburn 74-56 in the opening game of the Southeastern Conference tournament. **PAGE B1**

Cocaine found

Cherokee County sheriff's deputies have seized a tractor-trailer after 5 kilograms of cocaine was found in the vehicle Tuesday evening at a truck stop near Blacksburg. **PAGE C1**

New pizza buffet?

Stevi B's Pizza, a premium pizza buffet franchise headquartered in Atlanta, announced Wednesday it intends to move into the county following the success of its store that opened in Greenville in 2011. **PAGE C3**

Crisis in Crimea

Counting down to a high-stakes Crimean referendum, President Barack Obama declared Wednesday that the U.S. would "completely reject" a vote opening the door for the strategic Ukrainian peninsula to join Russia if the election goes ahead on Sunday. **PAGE A3**

Snow leads to crash

Pileups on the Ohio Turnpike involving at least 50 vehicles killed three people and seriously injured a state trooper on Wednesday as a late-winter storm swept through the Midwest. **PAGE A4**

PENALTY PHASE SCHEDULED FOR TODAY



JOHN BYRUM/UPSTATE JOURNAL

Ricky Lee Blackwell Sr. is escorted from the courtroom on Wednesday after jurors found him guilty of kidnapping and murder in the 2009 fatal shooting of an 8-year-old girl.

Blackwell guilty of murder, kidnapping

Chesnee man shot 8-year-old girl 4 times in 2009

By KIM KIMZEY
kim.kimzey@shj.com

It's been 1,709 days since Ricky Lee Blackwell Sr. murdered 8-year-old Brooke Center, but it took jurors only 20 minutes to find him guilty.

Blackwell, 55, of Chesnee was convicted Wednesday of kidnapping and murder. He shot Brooke to death on July 8, 2009.

The prosecution and defense asked jurors to return with guilty verdicts.

In closing arguments, Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry Barnett said Blackwell wanted to ensure

Brooke died, Barnett said. Blackwell's attorney, Bill McGuire with the S.C. Commission on Indigent Defense, told jurors, "Go do your duty. Don't deliberate long. Convict Ricky — he'll go to prison for the rest of his life."

Whether Blackwell spends life in prison or is sentenced to death has yet to be determined. The sentencing phase in the capital case is scheduled to start at 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

Prosecutors said Blackwell killed the girl in an act of revenge. Brooke was the daughter of Bobby Center. At the time, Center was in a relationship with Blackwell's estranged wife, Angela Davis, who has since divorced Blackwell.

Davis testified against Blackwell on Tuesday.

Davis wept as she recalled how Blackwell placed Brooke in a chokehold and held the girl at gunpoint. Davis said she pleaded with Blackwell to let Brooke go, but he refused. Davis said Blackwell told her, "You did this ... tell me what Bobby thinks of this," before shooting Brooke.

McGuire told the jury that Davis was not a credible witness.

Davis, McGuire said, frequently returned to Blackwell "not to reconcile, but to take advantage of him." McGuire said Davis returned for money and took most of the furniture

New plant to convert landfill gas into energy

Facility near Cross Anchor will provide power to 2,000 homes

By TREVOR ANDERSON
trevor.anderson@shj.com

Local entities focused on developing renewable energy sources believe their latest "green" project will be a boon for Upstate residents.

Spartanburg-based private investment firm Pacolet Milliken Enterprises Inc. and its subsidiary Lockhart Power on Wednesday announced a new landfill gas-to-power facility in Union County.

The Union County Landfill Energy facility will be built at Republic Services Inc.'s Upstate Regional Landfill near Cross Anchor. Methane produced by decomposing trash will be siphoned off and used to produce 3,200 kilowatts of electricity per year, enough to supply power for more than 2,000 average-size homes, the companies said.

"Before it was publicly announced, the project was referred to as Project Midas because it turns trash into figurative gold," said Bryan Stone, chief operating officer of Lockhart Power, in a statement. "We have proven with our Wellford renewable energy project that this type of generation is not only feasible but effective and economical."

Stone said the project represents the sixth renewable energy facility his company has developed or purchased during the past several years and will support its corporate environmental sustainability mission by continuing to allow it to generate more than 99 percent of its power from renewable resources.

"This project is another example of our efforts to become a leader in implementing green power alternatives," said Richard Webel, president of Pacolet Milliken, in a statement. "By capturing and beneficially utilizing landfill gas, we will reduce air pollution and tap into an otherwise wasted source of usable energy."

The project is expected to create up to 20 jobs during the construction phase, and Lockhart Power will provide operators, maintenance staff and administrative support on a permanent basis.

Air permitting for the project is expected to be completed by May, and construction should begin in June. The

◆ SEE GUILTY PAGE A7

◆ SEE ENERGY PAGE A7

THE JOURNAL

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Vol. 110 No. 52

Thursday, March 13, 2014

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THE LATE SHOW

Tigers set to open ACC Tournament against Jackets in nightcap. C1

50 OR OLDER?: Three simple things can help you lead a healthier life. B1

DEADLY BLAST: At least three killed after gas leak triggers NYC explosion. D1

Seneca council seat on the line today

BY CARLOS CALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The surprise unofficial winner of a City Council seat is reminding everyone calling to congratulate her that the celebration hasn't begun — at least not yet.

Denise Rozman garnered a total of 312 votes to unofficially earn a seat on council, but



Rozman



Riley

with five sealed provisional ballots that may or may not be validated today, incumbent Ernest "E" Riley could still end up retaining his seat after finishing with 310 votes.

A spokesperson with the Oconee County Registration and Elections office told The Journal Wednesday that the five provisional ballots could swing the results.

Kylie Murphree said that of the five ballots, four are from the Seneca 1 precinct, and the other is from Seneca 4.

According to Tuesday's results, Riley fared best in Seneca 1 with 158 votes, 13 better than Rozman in that precinct. In the Seneca 4 precinct, Rozman pulled 128 votes, 18 more than Riley.

Rozman is not doing the math in her head trying to figure out what the final outcome will look like when the Oconee County election commission meets today in Walhalla at 11 a.m. to determine whether the five provisional ballots should count or not.

"If I'm supposed to get the position, I'm going to get it, one way or another," Rozman said. "I kind of don't worry about

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE A5

County candidates debate issues

BY CARLOS CALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The District 3 County Council candidates' debate between Andy Inabinet and Paul Cain drew a large crowd that included elected officials from Oconee County and Seneca.

The two GOP candidates facing off in a special primary April 1 dealt with issues including the potential partnership between Oconee Medical Center

and the Greenville Health System, the Hampton Inn deal, the 1 percent sales tax increase to fund capital projects, fiscal autonomy for the school district and the reduction to Oconee from the Local Government Fund.

Among those attending the informal forum Wednesday evening put on by Limited Government for Oconee County was Barbara Barron, the widow of Archie Barron, whose seat

on County Council Cain and Inabinet are hoping to fill. Barron died Jan. 20 at the age of 77 after a brief battle with cancer.

When the Hampton Inn issue surfaced, Cain unequivocally said giving a cash incentive to a business is never a good idea. However, Inabinet avoided being critical of the deal that ended with the hotel developer getting a \$3 million incentive package, including grants of \$1 million from both Oconee

County and Seneca in addition to a fee-in-lieu-of-tax agreement with the county.

"If we're going to recruit industry and you see I-85 open up and people are coming in buying — that's part of the game whether you like it or not," Inabinet said. "It's going to be that you're going to have to offer some type of tax incentive or something so that they know you're serious."

SEE ISSUES, PAGE A5



Cain



Inabinet

Still on track



JESSICA NOLMS / THE JOURNAL
Construction workers lay block earlier this week during construction of the new Walhalla High School. District officials estimate that half a million pieces of block will be used in construction of the school.

New Walhalla High showing signs of progress

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — From roofing to walls that are popping up, construction of the new Walhalla High School on S.C. Highway 11 is plainly visible to motorists passing by.

"All the trades have been working," said Michael Thorsland, assistant superintendent for the School District of Oconee County. "The roofing stages, plumbing and electrical has all been going full bore."

There are currently anywhere from 130-140 workers on

the site, and officials say that number is quickly escalating. They say the number could increase to as many as 250 by the time the project ends in the summer of 2015.

For the past several days,

SEE WALHALLA, PAGE A5

Officials to look at potential scenarios for state cutbacks

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County Council will likely at least look at potential funding cuts to state agencies in the county in budget preparations in anticipation of a \$700,000 shortfall in funding from the state's Local Government Fund.

Councilman Reg Dexter, who chairs the council's budget, finance and administration committee, asked at last week's County Council meeting that county administrator Scott Moulder be directed to look at the possibility of reducing services to those 17 state agencies as an alternative to raising taxes to cover the shortfall.

The offices that could be affected in Oconee County

SEE OFFICIALS, PAGE A5

Oconee agencies that could face funding cuts

Assessor
Clerk Of Court
911 Communications
Coroner
Dept. of Social Services
Detention Center
Emergency Management
Health Department
Magistrates
Master In Equity
Medical Indigent Assistance

Westminster celebrates 139th birthday

BY JOSIE RABBITT
THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — West-

Westminster Chamber of Commerce.

The yard sale will begin at 8 a.m. in the Depot parking lot.

Powell said the town of Westminster has been hosting a yard sale to celebrate the town's birthday for the past six years.

Girl Scouts. This year we have the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary." The American Legion Ladies



Morning News

THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER
Sunny, breezy, cooler,
high 55, low 25
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

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Former publisher comes back 'home'

Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce selects Mike Miller as new president

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
jrussell@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce finalized its search for a new president, naming Mike Miller to the position.

If the name sounds familiar, it's because he is no stranger to Florence. He was also vice president and publisher of the Morning

News for seven years, from 1999 to 2006.



Miller

"Mike is somebody that is approachable and has a sincere love of Florence," board chairman Paul Seward said. "He has a long career in media, and his ability to communicate is crucial. When he was here,

he was great at establishing relationships. He already has ties to the community and won't be starting from scratch. We feel like the president needs to be a voice of the community. He is the one to do that. He has proven to take on policy issues in the community by presenting both sides."

Since leaving the Morning News, Miller, 59, served as publisher of the Winston-Salem Journal in North Carolina, and

he will be coming from Athens, Tenn., as publisher of The Athens Daily Post-Athenian and the Monroe Advocate & Democrat with Jones Media Inc. He also served as chairman of the Chamber board during his time in Florence. Seward said it was Miller's knowledge of the voluntary side that proved his dedication and support of Chamber business.

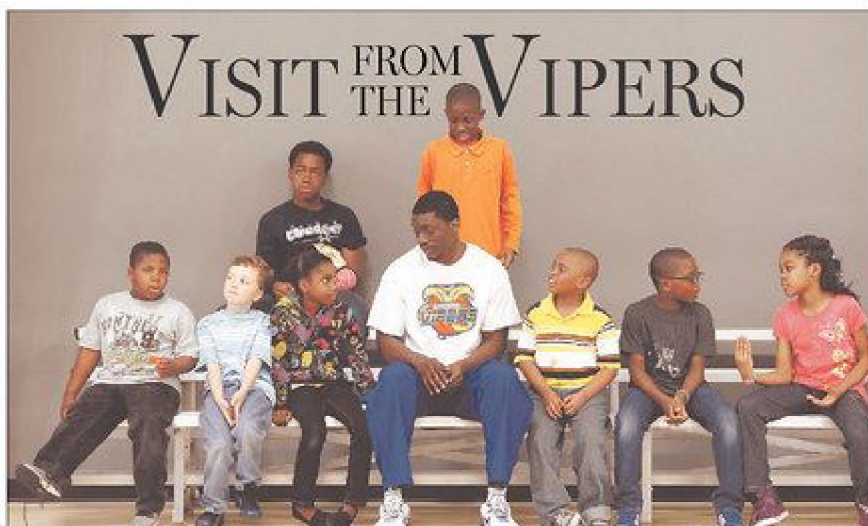
Although he has been officially

gone from Florence, Miller said he feels like he's never left.

"I'm not from here, but I feel like we (my family) are," he said. "I come back regularly and for big community events. Seeing people make things happen and the progress is exciting. For the size that Florence is, it has so much going for it."

He said one of the biggest

See **MILLER**, Page 4A



Youth sit with Stephen Yamoah of the Pee Dee Vipers on Wednesday at the Barnes Street Activity Center.

Four players and one coach from the Pee Dee Vipers basketball team visited youth on Wednesday afternoon at the Barnes Street Activity Center. They spoke about the importance of education and coached round-robin basketball games. "Hopefully, this can inspire some kids," the Vipers' Shakir Johnson said. While the visitors mostly stuck to coaching the youth, at times they gave into the urge to play in the game. "Once that ball starts bouncing, the competitive juices start flowing," Johnson said. For more photos, visit scnw.com.



ABOVE: Youth huddle during a basketball game coached by Stephen Yamoah of the Pee Dee Vipers.

LEFT: Youth cheer during a basketball game coached by members of the Pee Dee

FMU's first president talks history of university

BY JUSTIN JOHNSON
Morning News
jjohnson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Dr. W. Douglas Smith, the first president of Francis Marion University, waxed nostalgic about the inception of the Pee Dee's only four-year institution Wednesday night at Central United Methodist Church's weekly series, Live@Central.

More than 100 Pee Dee residents — many of them former FMU faculty members and students — came to hear Smith speak on the founding of the college, before it was established as a university.

Smith recounted stories of opening day on July 1, 1970 ("It was so hot you could fry a hamburger on the chairs."), state funding struggles ("We were supposed to have \$1.3 million, but they said there wasn't any room in the budget. So we went to go get it.") and creating a curriculum before a faculty had been hired ("I always wanted to start a college and write the curriculum myself").

The audience listened closely as Smith, now 93 years old, revealed some numbers about the founding year: 907 students enrolled — 307 more than originally estimated — and tuition was only \$200 per semester.

By 1981, two years before Smith would retire, the number of students topped 3,000.

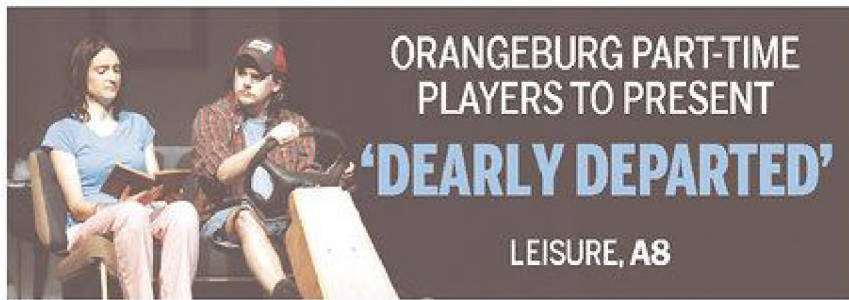
Francis Marion College, which was originally to be named Marion State College, was the first state college to be founded in the 20th century.

In 1992, Francis Marion reached university status, officially becoming FMU.



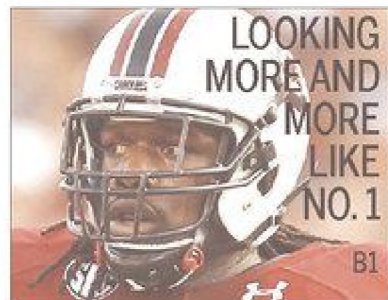


Odd



ORANGEBURG PART-TIME PLAYERS TO PRESENT 'DEARLY DEPARTED'

LEISURE, A8



LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE NO. 1

B1

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

The Times and Democrat

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3 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 72

SCSU trustee: Inauguration cost at least \$100K

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

A South Carolina State University trustee claims the inauguration of President Thomas Elzey cost at least \$100,000, but the university says it doesn't have a final accounting.

Trustee Anthony Grant said that a report he received about inauguration expenditures was incomplete.

"We spent upwards of \$100,000 on the inauguration and we have an austerity program," he said

during Monday's board meeting. But the report didn't include food or personnel costs, according to Grant.

"As a trustee, I've raised concerns about austerity in the past — a number of us — in connection with the inauguration, and this fell on deaf ears," he said.

Trustees approved a motion by a vote of 8-2 asking for a report on all expenses related to Elzey's recent inauguration. Trustees Cathy Novinger and Paul Ascue voted no and Bob Waldrep abstained. The Times and Democrat asked for a copy of the

report, but there is no document related to the inauguration, said Sorja Bennett, vice president for external affairs and communications.

"We do not have final expenses tally," she said. "I'm not sure where Mr. Grant got the \$100,000 figure."

Bennett said one of the reasons the inauguration was held during Founder's Week was to make it more cost efficient.

"It was better to do all at once, than to have two

See SCSU, A3

"We spent upwards of \$100,000 on the inauguration and we have an austerity program."

— S.C. STATE TRUSTEE
ANTHONY GRANT

'I'M DYING'

Hospice patient
facing charge
after standoff

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

An Ellerbe hospice patient who authorities say challenged officers to shoot him during a standoff has been charged.

Edward Tyson, 71, of 136 Warrior Drive, was charged Wednesday with criminal do-



Tyson

mestic violence of a high and aggravated nature after being cleared physically and mentally to be brought to court.

Orangeburg County Magistrate Peggy Doremus set bond on the wheelchair-bound Tyson at \$5,000 surety after long consideration.

"Mr. Tyson, I don't know what I'm going to do with you," Doremus said, cutting off the man's response. "That was just a statement. I don't need a comment from you."

Doremus ordered Tyson have no contact with his wife. Also, she should not to try to make contact with him.

"I'm on hospice, ma'am," Tyson said. "I'm dying."

Doremus shook her head. After a few moments, she said, "It still holds, Mr. Tyson. You can't contact the victim."

Tyson's charge originated at a Warrior Drive residence, where deputies nearly shot the man during a confrontation Monday, according to a Sheriff's Office incident report.

A woman called 911 saying her husband had threatened her at gunpoint, going so far

DISASTER DECLARED



LARRY HARDY/T&D

Workers move piles of tree trunks, limbs and branches Wednesday afternoon at the city collection site near Chestnut Street. The city of Orangeburg has collected approximately 17,000 cubic yards of debris from the ice storm at the Chestnut Street and Riverside Drive locations since the cleanup effort began.

Obama decision allows federal money to flow following \$430M storm

T&D and wire reports

The White House has approved South Carolina's request for federal disaster relief after last month's storm that caused more than \$430 million in damage.

The decision sets the stage for T&D Region local governments and utilities to be reimbursed millions for the cost of responding to the storm.

The White House announced Wednesday that President Obama signed the declaration. Gov. Nikki Haley made the request for 21 counties, including Orangeburg, Bamberg and Calhoun counties.

ing is available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged between Feb. 10 and Feb. 14.

The federal government will pay for 75 percent of the storm-related expenses. The state, local governments and agencies will pick up the remaining 25 percent.

Because the ice storm did not cause widespread damage to uninsured homes or businesses, citizens are not eligible for federal assistance in this instance.

Estimates of the cost of debris removal

City of Orangeburg: \$200,000
Orangeburg Department of Public Utilities: \$716,881
Edisto Electric Cooperative: \$350,000
Tri-County Electric Cooperative: \$800,000
Aiken Electric Cooperative: \$171,885

■ Calhoun County

County government: \$123,000
Aiken Electric Cooperative: \$19,750
Tri-County Electric Cooperative: \$800,000

Coastal Cooperative: \$265,000
City of Bamberg: \$37,534
City of Denmark: \$5,928

S.C. Emergency Management Division Public Information Coordinator Denree Becker said the figures are preliminary.

"This is a part of a six-month to year-long process," he said. Each county and agency is responsible for submitting information and some are ahead of others.

The disaster declaration comes after damage assessments from local and state officials, as well as a visit by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Brian Symmes

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304

Cell: (803) 673-9437