

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 4/25/2014 10:12:16 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, April 25, 2014

SC Front Pages – Friday, April 25, 2014



E GREENVILLE

HOG HEAVEN

Pig out at barbecue cook-off

METRO, 3A

Pension audit finds no wrongdoing

The Greenville News

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FRIDAY,
APRIL 25, 2014
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USA TODAY

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR BRIDGE REPAIRS NEEDS REPLENISHING PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

LANDSLIDES POSE STEEP RISK



Bill Ranson, a professor in the earth and environmental sciences department at Furman University, guides his class through the winding trails of Jones Gap State Park. Two of the stops along the hike were landslide sites, one of which occurred in the 1970s, the other in 2006. NYKAL MCELLOWNEY/STAFF

Homes, roads face threat from unstable slopes

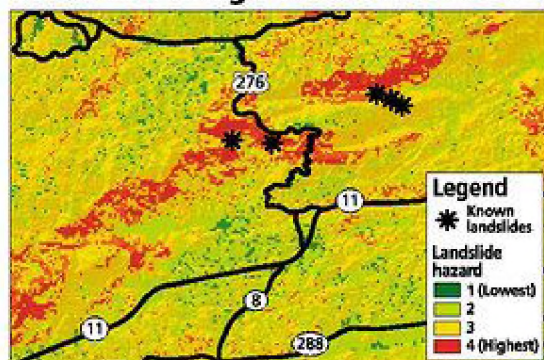
By Nathaniel Cary
Staff Writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

Mountaintops across the Upstate are at risk from landslides, and local geologists warn that if a landslide occurred in certain high-risk spots, it could wipe out mountain homes and endanger lives.

Homes built beneath the steep slopes and exposed rocks along the Blue Ridge Escarpment could be threatened if a landslide occurred, geologists said.

For homeowners seeking the seclusion or majestic views that mountain living affords, the risk of a landslide might seem distant, but after a landslide in Oso, Wash., last month killed at least 41 people and demolished the rural town, geologists in the Upstate said there's a real risk of a similar, though likely smaller, in-

Landslide susceptibility map for the Mountain Bridge Wilderness Area



Source: Map provided by Furman Earth and Environmental Science professors Dr. Bill Ranson, Dr. Sarah Mukherjee and students Elizabeth Johnston, Stephen Campbell and Paul Geller.

Program tackles doctor shortage

GHS-NGU partnership to train PAs could help meet demand

By Liv Osby

Staff writer

losby@greenvillenews.com

Greenville Health System and North Greenville University on Thursday announced a partnership to develop a physician assistant program that's designed to help allay the shortage of doctors and other health-care providers.

With the inaugural class set to begin in 2017 with 32 students, it will be the first such program in the Upstate, officials said. And the school could graduate as many as 144 in the program every year by 2021.

Physician assistants, or PAs, can do physical exams, diagnose illnesses, prescribe medications, order tests and perform many other medical functions under the minimal supervision of a doctor, according to GHS.

And because the Association of American Medical Colleges estimates the country will need 91,500 new doctors by the end of this decade, and 136,000 by 2025, experts say that physician extenders, including PAs and nurse practitioners, can help to meet the demand.

"As that paradigm for health delivery shifts, the physician assistant provider is going to be even more important," said Dr. James Epting, president of North Greenville University.

See PARTNERS, Page 5A

Man killed by SUV involved in police chase

Driver who led pursuit faces charges, TR authorities say

By Ron Barnett

Staff writer

rbarnett@greenvillenews.com

An SUV driver hit speeds of at least 100 mph through Travelers Rest while fleeing from a police patrol car and eventually crashed into another vehicle, killing a 70-year-old man, authorities said.

The officer had given up the pursuit "a very few minutes" before he discovered the accident near 606 Tubbs Mountain Road, just inside

MORE ONLINE

Winter freeze helps boost utility's earnings 40 percent. BUSINESS, B6



Defanging the tale of the viper stalking Mount Pleasant

BRIAN HICKS COLUMN, A2



The Post and Courier

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FRIDAY, April 25, 2014

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Leonardo Merchan competes Thursday in the Masters division at the Eastern Surfing Association's Mid-Atlantic Regional Surfing Championship on Folly Beach.

TIME TO GET ON BOARD

The biggest surfing competition to be held in the Charleston area in eight years kicked off Thursday and will run through Sunday.

Held on Folly Beach, the Eastern Surfing Association is hosting its 30th annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Surfing Championship. The contest is expected to bring about 300 competitors to the area for surfing and stand-up paddleboard contests. There are other events, such as an outdoor "Surf Party" at Ocean Surf Shop on Saturday.

For more details on the surf contest and other events happening this weekend, go to charlestonscene.com.



Sinetta Ruiz (left) and Lindsay Lewis wait for their heat to begin Thursday at the Folly Beach surfing competition.



Gallery

For more photos from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Surfing Championships, go to postandcourier.com/galleries.

Ervin stirs up state GOP ire

Party tells rival to drop 'Republican'

BY JEREMY BORDEN
jborden@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Republican Party is demanding that a third-party candidate running for governor stop referring to himself as a Republican in campaign advertising.

Independent Tom Ervin, a former judge and S.C. House Democrat in the 1970s, originally had filed to run against Gov. Nikki Haley in June's Republican primary. But he opted to jump out of the primary and instead run as an independent.

In Ervin's recent campaign advertisement, the words "Independent Republican" flash under his name. A lawyer for the state party, Doug Smith, wrote in a letter to Ervin on Thursday that his use of the word is misleading and illegal under campaign rules. "Tom, my days in your court, while many years ago, tell me that you are not about misleading the public."



Ervin

Please see ERVIN, Page A4



Poll

Should Tom Ervin be able to call himself an independent Republican in campaign ads? Find this story at palmettopolitics.com to vote.

E-cigs ignite call for limits

FDA seeks ban for minors, health labels

BY WARREN WISE
and DAVID QUICK
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dquick@postandcourier.com

The federal government wants to ban sales of electronic cigarettes to minors and require health warning labels and approval for new products. While the proposal issued Thursday by the Food and Drug Administration won't immediately mean changes for the popular devices, the move is aimed at eventually taming the fast-growing e-cigarette industry.

Some smokers like e-cigarettes because the nicotine-infused vapor looks like smoke but doesn't contain the thousands of chemicals, tar or odor of regular cigarettes. Some smokers use e-cigarettes as a way to quit smoking tobacco, or to cut down. However, there's not much scientific evidence showing e-cigarettes help

Please see FDA, Page A6

Porter Military's last grads gather after 50 years

Fond memories remain for alumni of school rooted deeply in Charleston's past

BY AMANDA KERR
akerr@postandcourier.com

The third weekend of every April, alumni of Porter Military Academy gather at St. Luke's Chapel for a service to celebrate the heritage and history of their school.

This year that annual tradition will take on a deeper meaning as members of the class of 1964 — the last graduating class of the academy — will gather for their first reunion in 50 years.

"We had some good times," said Mike Ratcliffe, a 1964 graduate of the academy who has helped organize the reunion.

Despite the academy's name, Ratcliffe said it was military only in appearance but not in curriculum. The boys wore military-style uniforms and marched each morning to St. Luke's Chapel for service, but there were no military classes.

The academy has a complex history that dates to 1867 when the Rev. Anthony Toomer Porter, an



Bill Allen (left), class of 1963, and Mike Ratcliffe, class of 1964, look over old photos from Porter Military Academy on Tuesday in the archive room at Porter-Gaud. The class of 1964 was the last graduating class from Porter before the Porter and Gaud schools merged.

BRIAN NETTLES/STAFF

Please see PORTER, Page A4



Partly cloudy
High 84, Low 59.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8.

Bridge — D7
Business — B6
Classifieds — E1
Comics — D6,7
Crossword — D4, E10
Editorials — B1
The South — B1
Movies — D4
Obituaries — B4
People — D1
Sports — C1
Television — D5

Charleston Deals today

FED Restaurant
New opening, \$10 for \$20 at FED Restaurant, Friends, Eats, Drinks
See A2

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, April 25, 2014

Vol. 148, No. 115 Aiken, S.C. ★ 75¢

Project Slumber brings 615 jobs

BY SCOTT RODGERS
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NORTH AUGUSTA — The curtain was lifted on Thursday to reveal a \$12 million investment and the creation of 615 jobs in Aiken County, courtesy of Medac, a provider of services and products to anesthesia-related health care providers.

The partnership was brought about when the president and founder of Medac, Bijon Memar, received a call from Chris Schoen, managing principal of Greenstone Properties.



Williams

The group is the one that has been currently working with the City of North Augusta for Project Jackson.

"We looked over the plans, and I said that this is gorgeous," Memar said. "With the ball-

park, the restaurants and the shops all within walking distance for the

employees to go places."

Will Williams, Economic Development Partnership director, said the engagement between the City and Medac started in January. Now, toward the end of April, the deal, code-named Project Slumber, has been struck.

Memar said Medac is committed to the City of North Augusta after all the work that has been put in to help make the dream that he and his late brother had for his company a reality.

Please see **SLUMBER**, Page 5A

Contract talks lead to possible strike at AGY

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Employees of Aiken's AGY plant are preparing to strike at the end of the month in response to a new labor contract that would reportedly bring on more temporary workers, cut wages and slash benefits, according to multiple sources.



Fletcher

L.D. Fletcher, president of the General Drivers, Warehousemen and Helpers Local Union No. 509, sent a memo to union members dated April 22, in which he states the Union Negotiating Committee has met with the company "on and off" since March

24 in negotiations to gain a new labor agreement.

"To date, little progress has been made," Fletcher wrote in the letter, a copy of which was provided to the *Aiken Standard*. "The Company is insisting on changes that the Union Negotiating Committee cannot accept."

Some of the proposed changes in the new labor contract involve issues with seniority, including doing away with plant seniority, laying off employees without regard to seniority and having job bids not based on seniority, according to the document.

In addition to combining the plant's departments into three entities, the new contract would also eliminate the maintenance apprenticeship program and allow unlimited use of subcontractors, according to the document.

Please see **STRIKE**, Page 5A

University Hospital may build facility in Aiken area

BY HALEY HUGHES
hhughes@aikenstandard.com

University Hospital in Augusta is considering plans to build an 88-bed, 86,000-square-foot assisted living facility in Aiken. The hospital's board of directors agreed on Thursday to pursue funding for the facility which would be located in The Village at Woodside off Silver Bluff Road, according to hospital senior communications specialist Erica Cline. The estimated cost for the facility is \$22 million. University Hospital serves Augusta-Richmond County and the surrounding region. Check www.aikenstandard.com and Saturday's edition for more details.

Haley Hughes is the news editor for the *Aiken Standard*. She joined the newspaper in 2007 and covered the Aiken County government until her promotion in 2013.

Pardon our progress

The *Aiken Standard* is continually looking for ways to improve our product and serve our readers better. We are excited about a new press unit we are currently installing.

This week, your paper will look different from what you are used to, including a sports section that will not be in color. When the installation is done, it will mean improved color capability.

Thank you for your patience during this time.

— Ellen C. Priest
Publisher

AREA DEATHS

Emily Cecil Derosier Lemme, Aiken

George Harris Jr., North Augusta
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

Ruth Patrick center celebrates 25 years

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Jason Fulmer remembers sitting under the dining room table as a young child, listening to his mother study

ONLINE

For more photos from the Ruth Patrick center celebration, visit www.aikenstandard.com.

for her classes at USC Aiken. Twenty-eight years later, he's a middle school teacher in Aiken County, and he said another thing that impacted his passion for science, math and education was visiting the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center shortly after it was built.

The center celebrated its 25th anniversary on Thursday night with a dinner and program at the facility. Spread throughout were exhibits of the center's accomplishments, from middle school students explaining their displays of "elephant toothpaste" to visits with some of the center's scaly, four-legged or winged inhabitants.

It all began more than two decades ago with some ideas scribbled on a napkin over dinner, according to Dr. Gary Senn, director of the center.

"There was the recognition that there was not enough emphasis on science and mathematics," Senn said.

The chancellor and community leaders got together to see what they could do to improve science and mathematics education in the community, according to Senn. They wanted to build an education center, and applied for a grant through the



Gavin DeJong holds a corn snake during the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration at USC Aiken on Thursday night.

Cassie Nichols gives a static electricity demonstration during the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center's 25th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday night.

National Science Foundation.

"Some people there said, 'It would be best if you had someone to name your science center after — some renowned scientist,'" Senn said.

Enter Dr. Ruth Patrick, who was internationally known at that point, but especially so in the CSRA for her work preceding the development of the Savannah River Site, where she

was asked to make a baseline study of the ecosystem in the area.

Since then, there have been more than 1.4 million school visits to the various programs at the center, including 90,000 student visits so far this year, according to Senn. The center focuses on providing engaging, hands-on programs related to science, technology, engineering and

mathematics for children in grades kindergarten through 12th grade.

Senn said the number of people wanting to get to the center is testimony to how it's grown (and continues to grow), noting that between 8,000 and 10,000 students are on the waiting list to visit.

Please see **RUTH**, Page 16A

INSIDE TODAY



Last day to vote for your



Students showcase



Special needs program

COMING UP



Aiken's real estate market



The Beaufort Gazette

FRIDAY, April 25, 2014

beaufortgazette.com

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MURDER CASE OF HILTON HEAD BOY

Officials quiet on new evidence

No information has come out about how recordings surfaced

By **MATT McNAB**
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843-706-8125

A day after the trial of three Hilton Head Island men charged with the murder of 8-year-old Khalil Singleton collapsed when new evidence suddenly surfaced, officials provided little information about the fresh evidence, including why it didn't come to light sooner.

Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone, the prosecutor, said he could not comment on the new evidence.

"It is improper for me to speak about evidence in a pending murder case," Stone said in a voicemail Thursday.

Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner, who previously has declined to comment on the case for the same reason, did not return phone calls Thursday seeking details about the evidence. Described in court only as video and audio recordings, the existence of the new evidence was disclosed in court Tuesday morning, just as the trial for the three accused men — Tyrone Robinson, Aaron Young Sr., and his son, Aaron Young Jr. — was getting underway.

Robinson and the Youngs exchanged gunfire on Sept. 1, 2012, on Allen Road, just off Marshland Road. A bullet fired by Robinson tore into Singleton's torso and fatally wounded him, authorities have said. The event stunned the community because a child died as a result of a gunfight in a quiet neighborhood in broad daylight.

The recordings, made by investigating deputies shortly after Singleton died, weren't included with other evidence prosecutors had shared with defense attorneys earlier. Prosecutors and defense attorneys apparently learned about the recordings late Monday or early Tuesday. When court convened on Tuesday morning, Circuit Judge Thomas Cooper announced the trial would be delayed a



Robinson



Young Sr.



Young Jr.

Please see CASE on 7A

AT A HOSPITAL IN KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

SECURITY OFFICER KILLS 3 AMERICANS



By **KAY JOHNSON**
The Associated Press

Three Americans — a pediatrician and a father and son — were killed by an Afghan government security officer at a hospital Thursday, the latest in a series of attacks on foreign civilians that has rattled aid workers, contractors and journalists.

Another American, a female medical worker, was wounded in the attack at Cure International Hospital of Kabul, run by a U.S.-based Christian charity, and the gunman also was wounded, officials said.

The hospital staff performed surgery on the attacker, who had shot himself, before he was handed over to Afghan authorities, Cure said in a statement. However, Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqi said the assailant was shot by other security guards.

The attacker's motive was not clear, police said, and there was no Taliban claim of responsibility by Thursday night.

Please see KABUL on 7A

MASSOUD HOSSAINI • The Associated Press

An Afghan policeman stands near the main gate of Cure International Hospital on Thursday in Kabul, Afghanistan. The U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan says three Americans were killed by an Afghan security guard who opened fire at the hospital.

CRITICS SAY WORK TO FREE U.S. SOLDIER DISORGANIZED

WASHINGTON — Critics of the U.S. government's nearly five-year effort to seek the release of the only American soldier held captive in Afghanistan claim the work suffers from disorganization and poor communication



Bergdahl

among numerous federal agencies involved, leaving his captors unclear which U.S. officials have the authority to make a deal.

The shrinking U.S. military footprint in Afghanistan has refocused attention on efforts to bring home Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl who has been held by the Taliban since June 30, 2009.

Please see CHEST on 7A

SERIAL CHILD MOLESTATION SUSPECT

A knife to the chest

As an international investigation continues, officials say William James Vahey took his own life March 21 in Minnesota.

By **LAURA OBERLE**
loberle@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8169

On the day he ended his life with a knife thrust to the chest, serial child molestation suspect William James Vahey checked into two hotel rooms in a small Minnesota town.

Vahey, a part-time Hilton Head Island resident, got the first room at the Grand Stay Hotel in Luverne on March 21.

He did not stay the night, a hotel receptionist who asked not to be identified said Thursday.

Hotel staff knocked on his room door after his brother called looking for him, the receptionist said.

Vahey wasn't there.

The 64-year-old, who told the FBI he drugged and molested at least 90 boys in the course of his teaching career, was only about 500 feet away at the Quality Inn.

There, police found him dead of the knife wound, according to the Star Herald newspaper of Luverne.

"He must have checked in here, kept his room as a coverup, checked into the other hotel and committed suicide," the receptionist said.

The FBI, which is conducting an investigation, has no explanation as to why Vahey was in Luverne when he committed suicide, but acknowledges the possibility he had family in the town of 4,745.

As the FBI continues its international search for Vahey's victims, more details about the serial molester are emerging on Hilton Head and across the world.

CALL FOR HELP HEEEDED

Over the past 40 years, Vahey taught at 10 American International schools in nine countries, including Nicaragua, Great Britain, Venezuela, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Iran, Spain and Lebanon.

He was fired from the American Nicaraguan School in Managua on March 12, where he taught ninth-grade history, after a USB flash drive containing pornographic images of boys was turned in to the FBI, according to a FBI news release.

FBI CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have information about William James Vahey or believe you may have been victimized by

County track meet: Vikings sweep / B1



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Herald-Journal

FRIDAY

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AFGHANISTAN

Gunman kills 3 American doctors

Attacker said to be security officer

By KAY JOHNSON
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three Americans — a pediatrician, a father and son — were killed by an Afghan government security officer at a hospital Thursday, the latest in a series of attacks on foreign civilians that has rattled aid workers, contractors and journalists.

Another American, a female medical worker, was wounded in the attack at Cure International Hospital of Kabul, run by a U.S.-based Christian charity. The gunman also was wounded, officials said.

The hospital staff performed surgery on the attacker — who shot himself — before he was handed over to Afghan authorities, Cure said in a statement. However, Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said the assailant was shot by other security guards.

The attacker's motive was not clear, police said, and there was no Taliban claim of responsibility by Thursday night.

As international troops withdraw, civilian workers increasingly fear they are considered prime targets by militants.

Some are rethinking their safety — and even if they will stay.

All three of the dead were identified as American doctors by Bektash Turkystani, a Health Ministry spokesman. But the U.S. Embassy confirmed only that three American citizens had been killed. Cure said a doctor was one of three people killed.

Among the dead was Dr. Jerry Umanos, a 57-year-old pediatrician from Chicago, according to his mother-in-law, Angie Schuitema. The Lawndale Christian Health Center in Chicago said Umanos worked there for more

Halfway house fires up Roebuck



JumpStart has purchased property in Roebuck for halfway houses for convicted felons. Community members gathered at a meeting Thursday evening at the Roebuck fire station to oppose the development. Here, Lynn Cantrell makes a point as Norma Goettmann holds up a sheet of paper with photos of the trailers in question. See a photo gallery from the meeting at GoUpstate.com.

Many at forum complain about JumpStart bringing felons into neighborhood

By DANIEL J. GROSS
daniel.gross@shj.com

Rep. Eddie Tallon's initial remarks to the hundreds who came out to a community meeting in Roebuck became a precursor to how the rest of the evening would go.

"It's a big crowd, so it's going to get warm in here," said Tallon, R-Spartanburg.

More than 200 concerned residents filled the Roebuck Fire Department to voice frustrations and fears about new halfway housing in their community to transition felons back into society. Some of the felons moving into the halfway houses are registered sex offenders.

The nonprofit JumpStart Ministries recently purchased a group of homes in a trailer park to house up to 21 felons. The homes off of Bearden Road house 11, JumpStart founder and executive director Timothy Terry said.

The nonprofit, Terry said, is a Bible-based ministry that gives felons a second chance and has housing currently for 36 ex-offenders in Spartanburg and Charleston counties.

Many of those living in the Roebuck neighbor-

◆ SEE JUMPSTART PAGE A7

125TH ANNIVERSARY

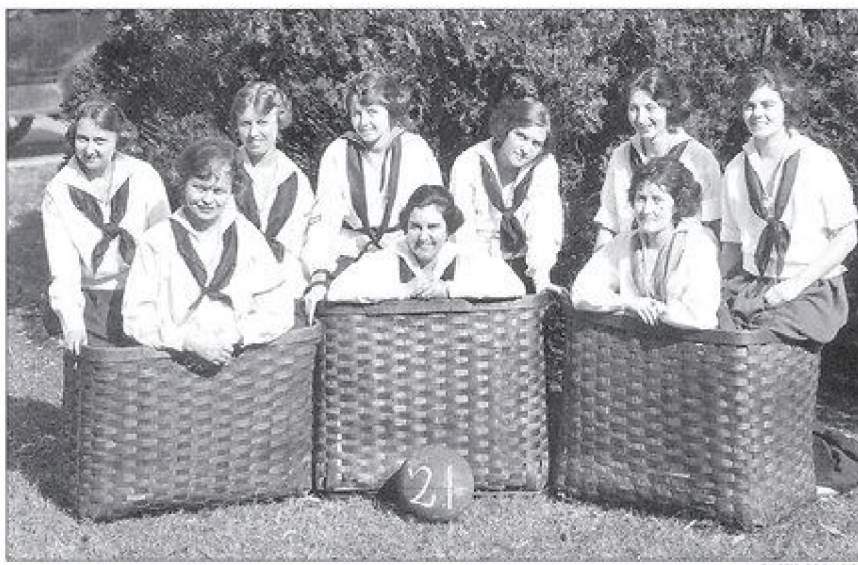
Converse College celebrates milestone

By JENNY ARNOLD
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

Hundreds of Converse College alumnae are in town this weekend, not only to reunite with former classmates, but also to celebrate the women's college's 125th birthday.

Converse College, founded in 1889, has come a long way — from its first class of 117 students in 1890, to the 1,221 students who attend today.

"I'm so deeply proud that Converse College has been fulfilling its mission for 125 years and that we are on a growing trajectory," said Betsy Fleming, who is the college's ninth president. "It's tremendous to be able to celebrate this birthday."



An early Converse College basketball team poses in baskets. The college is celebrating its 125th anniversary.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and board cost \$115 for a 20-week session.

The students were only allowed to go home once a month, so on weekends, the campus teemed with activities. Literary societies

1893, the literary societies founded "Concept," a literary magazine of student writings which remains in publication today.

Baseball, tennis, basketball and bowling were popular sports

the 1960s. But alumnae say one fundamental aspect of Converse remains the same as it did in the very beginning — providing an education equal to those of larger colleges and empowering women

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www.indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Greenwood County eyes general fund budget

Document balanced at \$19.8 million; could lead to millage decrease

By **CHRIS TRAINOR**
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County Council earlier this week heard extensive information on the fiscal year 2015 general fund budget.

Council has been going through a series of budget workshops in which it hears from various county staff and department heads about different segments of the budget. During a nearly three-hour session Tuesday, council received details from county manager

Toby Chappell regarding the general fund budget.

The fiscal year 2015 general fund budget is balanced at just more than \$19.87 million. That number represents a slight increase on the 2014 budget, which was just less than \$19.85 million.

As for the drivers of the budget, information presented by county staff shows that 50 percent of the county's budget goes to salaries, 19 percent goes toward fringe benefits for employees and all other expenses

make up the remaining 31 percent.

According to information provided by county officials, residents could possibly see a millage decrease in the 2015 budget, thanks to a recent debt payoff deal authorized by county council.

On April 1, council passed an ordinance that authorized the use of capital

project sales tax funds collected several years ago to pay off all of the county's bonded indebtedness and leases.

The county is using about \$10.5 million in penny tax funds to pay off its debt.

Because of that debt payoff, the full 6.1 mills that were used in debt service will not be needed for the 2015 budget.

Of those 6.1 mills, county manager Toby Chappell is recommending using 2 mills to help bolster the general fund, and 1 mill to help bolster

the capital fund.

The remaining 3.1 mills, which amounts to about \$490,000, would not be needed for the 2015 budget.

Chappell noted it will ultimately be council's decision as to how the issue of the 6.1 debt mills is addressed.

During this week's budget talk, the county manager also discussed areas of progress in the past year. He noted the county had a compensation study performed, the first such complete

See **BUDGET**, page 4A



TOBY CHAPPELL

COURTS

Suspect in 3 cases gets bond

By **MATT BRUCE**
mbruce@indexjournal.com

Bond was set Thursday for a Greenwood man who faces charges in three different violent crimes.

Kelsey Watson, 32, of 129 N. Hospital St., appeared for a bond adjustment hearing inside Greenwood County Courthouse. He stands accused of six felonies stemming from three unrelated incidents in 2012 and 2013. Among those is an attempted murder charge and two counts of armed robbery.

Circuit Court Judge Thomas Hughston presided over Thursday's hearing and issued a \$200,000 cash or surety bond for Watson on the slate of indictments. He ordered that the suspect re-appear before a circuit judge who can set the terms of his release, should he be able post bond.

Watson was originally arrested in the case June 25, 2013, and charged in connection with two of the incidents.

He was booked for armed robbery and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime, stemming from a Jan. 30, 2013, stick-up at a Hispanic grocery in Greenwood. Arrest warrants state he stormed into the convenience store brandishing a handgun, demanded money, and stole cash before fleeing the shop. Watson also was booked on a count of pointing and presenting a firearm when he was arrested last year. That weapons charge stemmed from a May 2013 verbal altercation at a house

See **BOND**, page 4A



Eaton employees plant in the new community garden unveiled Thursday afternoon at Eaton Corporation on Emerald Road. A variety of vegetables including tomatoes, eggplant, carrots and more will be planted and the extra produce from the garden will be given to local non-profits and charities.

PHOTOS BY MADDY JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL

'GREEN' RIBBON CUTTING

Eaton Power Systems christens community garden

By **KATE HRUBY**
khruby@indexjournal.com

With the late-April mid-day sun pouring down, the Eaton Power Systems Plant hosted a ribbon-cutting for its new community garden Thursday.

Plant manager Rick Todd had the honor of cutting the ribbon, with over-sized scissors provided by the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce.

Planting the garden, the first of its kind at the plant, is set to begin on Monday; if the soil is dry enough, according to Mary Rylander, lien specialist at the plant and one of the event's organizers.

The garden will include a wide range of vegetables — corn, green beans, peppers, zucchini and others — as well as a raised herb bed and will be tended by the plant's garden committee.

According to Rylander, a master gardener, approximately 10 to 12 employees are on the garden committee.

Members of the committee will be able to take home some of the produce and the rest will be donated to Greenwood County Food Bank and Bowers-Rodgers Home.

The ribbon-cutting occurred during a joint celebration of Earth Day and World Day for Safety and Health

at Work.

Employees gathered outside for an employee picnic, and were able to peruse eight informational stations: four concerning Earth Day, and the other four concerning World Day for Health and Safety.

Each station had a question which, if answered correctly, would place the employee in a drawing for that

See **GARDEN**, page 4A



At the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Eaton community garden, Eaton employees walk around to the various posters to learn more about safety and the environment in light of Earth Day last Tuesday and World Day for Safety and Health on Monday.

SC GOP threatens to sue Gov. Haley's former primary foe

THE ISLAND PACKET

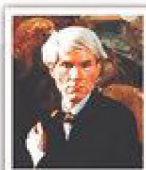
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KHALIL SINGLETON
MURDER CASE

Officials quiet on new evidence

Few details given on why findings didn't come to light sooner

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

A day after the trial of three Hilton Head Island men charged with the murder of 8-year-old Khalil Singleton collapsed when new evidence suddenly surfaced, officials provided little information about the fresh evidence, including why it didn't come to light sooner.

Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor Duffie Stone, the prosecutor, said he could not comment on the new evidence.

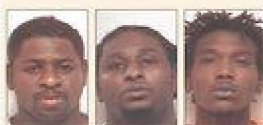
"It is improper for me to speak about evidence in a pending murder case," Stone said in a voicemail Thursday.

Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tinner, who previously has declined to comment on the case for the same reason, did not return phone calls Thursday seeking details about the evidence. Described in court only as video and audio recordings, the existence of the new evidence was disclosed in court Tuesday morning, just as the trial for the three accused men — Tyrone Robinson, Aaron Young Sr., and his son, Aaron Young Jr. — was getting underway.

Robinson and the Youngs exchanged gunfire on Sept. 1, 2012, on Allen Road, just off Marshland Road. A bullet fired by Robinson tore into Singleton's torso

Please see EVIDENCE on 7A

SUSPECTS



From left, Tyrone Robinson, Aaron Young Sr. and Aaron Young Jr. are accused in the 2012 murder of 8-year-old Khalil Singleton.

IN AFGHANISTAN

3 AMERICANS KILLED IN HOSPITAL SHOOTING

By KAY JOHNSON
The Associated Press

Three Americans — a pediatrician and a father and son — were killed by an Afghan government security officer at a hospital Thursday in Kabul, Afghanistan, the latest in a series of attacks on foreign civilians that has rattled aid workers, contractors and journalists.

Another American, a female medical worker, was wounded in the attack at Cure International Hospital of Kabul, run by a U.S.-based Christian charity, and the gunman also was wounded, officials said.

The hospital staff performed surgery on the attacker, who had shot himself, before he was handed over to Afghan authorities, Cure said in a statement. However, Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said the assailant was shot by other security guards.

The attacker's motive was not clear, police said, and there was no Taliban claim of responsibility by Thursday night.

Please see SHOOTING on 7A



MASSOUD HOSSAINI • The Associated Press

An Afghan policeman stands near the main gate of Cure International Hospital on Thursday in Kabul, Afghanistan. The U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan says three Americans were killed by an Afghan security guard who opened fire at the hospital.

A knife to the chest

As an international investigation continues, officials say molestation suspect took his own life March 21 in Minnesota.

By LAURA OBERLE
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843-706-8169

On the day he ended his life with a knife thrust to the chest, serial child molestation suspect William James Vahey checked into two hotel rooms in a small Minnesota town.

Vahey, a part-time Hilton Head Island resident, got the first room at the GrandStay Hotel in Laverne on March 21.

He did not stay the night, a hotel receptionist who asked not to be identified said Thursday.

Hotel staff knocked on his room door after his brother called looking for him, the receptionist said.

Vahey wasn't there.

The 64-year-old, who told the FBI he drugged and molested at least 90 boys in the course of his teaching career, was only about 500 feet away at the Quality Inn.

There, police found him dead of the knife wound, according to the Star Herald newspaper of Laverne.

"He must have checked in here, kept his room as a coverup, checked into the other hotel and committed suicide," the receptionist said.

The FBI, which is conducting an investigation, has no explanation as to why Vahey was in Laverne when



Vahey

Please see KNIFE on 7A

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have information about William James Vahey or believe you may have been victimized by him, complete an FBI questionnaire at <http://1.usa.gov/ImFOXZp> or email hovictimassistance@ic.fbi.gov.



You can also contact the FBI office at 25 Clarks Summit Drive in Bluffton; phone: 843-815-2180.

All inquiries will be kept confidential.

the Sumter ITEM

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

75 CENTS

SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE OCTOBER 15, 1894

3 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES | VOL. 119, NO. 163



Tourney time

Lady Fire Ants set for Region X tournament **B1**



Relic fever

Items associated with Pope John Paul II surging in popularity ahead of declaration of sainthood **A5**

Runaway, homeless shelter moves toward closure **A3**

DEATHS, B6 and B7

Furman M. Robinson Jr.
Patrick L. Mills
Forest Gibbons Jr.
John H. Junious
Lillie Mae T. Rogers

Raymond H. Dionne
Michael D. Spencer
Susan F. Jacobs
James W. Sanders
Bernice Brunson

Officials say city will raise more money than expected

Tax assessments update shows council closer to balancing budget

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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(803) 774-1272

The city budget is a quarter-million dollars closer to being balanced.

At a specially called budget meeting this week, Sumter City Council learned its finances are that much closer to matching revenue

and expenditures after officials determined Sumter will raise more money than previously expected.

The increase isn't because of a tax increase, City Manager Deron McCormick told council Tuesday. Instead, budget staff has received updated tax assessments from the county assessor's office that add another \$255,000 to the city's projected income for fiscal year 2014-15.

That adjustment, along with an additional \$20,000 worth of lowered expenditures, caused the deficit to drop from an initial \$972,590 to \$899,164.

But the city still must find a way

to trim almost \$700,000 in spending requested by various city departments before the end of the fiscal year June 30. Some departments are facing increasing operating costs before they even factor in the costs of services.

"There are some things they don't control," McCormick said, citing a rise in health insurance costs, changes to the way the state calculates pension contributions, and adjustments to worker's compensation. "You can have a half-million dollars in new costs without changing anything else."

SEE CITY BUDGET, PAGE A6

Adjustments to Opera House clock



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Jared Barnhill makes some minor adjustments on the clock in the Sumter Opera House on Thursday afternoon. The only non-original piece in the clock tower is a pane of glass that had to be replaced after Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The rest of the clock and its parts were assembled in Sumter in 1894. The historic clock is back in operation after a hiatus because of a broken part.

Motorists with expired tags advised to file complaints

BY JIM HILLEY
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Tierra Taylor said she felt frustrated.

Taylor, who lives in Alcolu, said when she noticed April 7 that the 45-day tag on the car she purchased from Craig's Used Cars in Manning was expiring, she contacted the dealership.

"They said it would be in on the ninth," she said.

When she asked if they could give her another tag, she said they told her, "Don't worry, we'll pay your ticket," and changed the "7" on her tag to a "17."

"I was afraid to drive my car," she



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Gov. Nikki Haley speaks with Sumter School District Teacher Forum's members after the S.C. House passed the K-12 Education Reform Initiative.

McElveen touts initiative to expand kindergarten



COLE'S ROLE
Stoudt to continue to work hard despite first-team designation. C1

ROYAL RACES: *Queen's Cup kicks off spring in the South. B1*
HAPPIEST PLACE?: *In Disney's shadow, homeless families struggle. D1*

Inabinet submits financial report

BY CARLOS CALARZA-VEVE
 THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Oconee County Council candidate Andy Inabinet said Thursday that he rectified an oversight by quickly filing a campaign disclosure report to the S.C. Ethics Commission. Inabinet told The Journal that he filed his latest report electronically Wednesday night after learning earlier in the day he was 12 days late. The quarterly report of financial activity from Jan. 1-March 31 was due April 10.

Inabinet also missed the five-day grace period April 15 and will be penalized \$100 for being late, state Ethics Commission deputy director Cathy Hazelwood said.

"I filed it in about 30 minutes at the most," Inabinet said. "It was my fault (and) I take responsibility for that. I should have kept up with it."

The report shows that Inabinet received a total of \$2,920 from individual contributors, spent \$2,504.62 and has \$415.38 on hand.

"It's all there," Inabinet said. "I should have paid a little closer attention."

Inabinet will be the only

SEE INABINET, PAGE A5

'I should have paid a little closer attention.'

Andy Inabinet
 Oconee County Council candidate

Blue Ridge Electric president: EPA coal plans could increase electric rates

BY NORMAN CANNADA
 THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — An effort by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that could eventually shut down all coal-fueled generating plants in the U.S. could increase electric rates for Blue Ridge Electric Cooper-

ative customers by 53 percent, according to Blue Ridge president and CEO Charles Dalton.

Dalton made his comments during the annual Blue Ridge media luncheon Thursday at

the Madren Center. He said his company is working on a plan to try to get 10,000 customers to sign pledge cards outlining opposition to the EPA plan. Pledge cards will be sought through inserts in power bills, emails, social media and other avenues.

"The sentiments of those individuals will then be for-

warded to both the EPA and the members of our South Carolina delegation," Dalton said. "We're keeping our fingers crossed that this great outpouring of concern from all across this land of ours will have its desired impact in Washington."

SEE RATES, PAGE A5



Annual 'Walk a Mile' event raises awareness

BY JOSIE RABBITT
 THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Seneca Fire Chief Charlie King knows the benefit of finding an in style high heel thanks to the women of Foothills Alliance, who paired some of Oconee County's finest with women's high heels — sizes 11 and up.

"This is not simply a great pair of shoes," King said, clutching his selected pair of glittery silver high heels. "This is a great pair of shoes

for a cause. I'm walking in these because it's the right thing to do."

Thursday night marked the second annual Oconee Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, sponsored by the Foothills Alliance, an Upstate rape crisis and child advocacy center. About two dozen Oconee County men registered to walk on Ram Cat Alley during Jazz on the Alley in women's shoes, holding signs bearing rape sta-

SEE SHOES, PAGE A6



Though it had only been 10 minutes, the men who participated in Thursday night's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event — including Seneca mayor Dan Alexander, pictured above — couldn't wait to sit down and kick off their heels.



Mountain Lakes Convention and Visitors Bureau director Ken Sloan was proud and a little self-conscious of his tan heels of choice Thursday night during the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event.

CAT director says diesel fuel costs 'skyrocketing'

BY GREG OLIVER
 THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Clemson Area Transit executive director Al Babiniez said CAT enjoyed its best year, performance-wise, last year since the service first began in 1996.

The transit service transport-

son University through its 4U partnership entered into more than a decade ago.

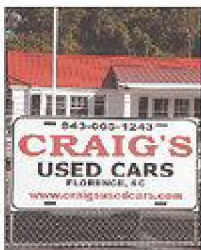
"CAT isn't the small transit system operation that is in a lot of people's minds," Babiniez said. "We're currently ranked as the second largest transit system in South Carolina, next to Charleston."

fluctuates daily, and when you're burning 14,000 gallons a month, it becomes alarming."

Babiniez said CAT is very conscious about fuel costs. He pointed out that fuel consumption is monitored, and CAT officials work with maintenance and training personnel.

"We do a lot of fuel savings





Morning News

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Heavy thunderstorms, cloudy, high 84, low 54
DETAILS 2A

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75 cents



Florence's Biggest Loser winner Mary McLeod holds back tears Thursday as she tells the other 59 contestants that the award is "for all of us," while second-place contestant John McElwee looks on.

'This is only the beginning'

Mary McLeod is named Florence's Biggest Loser

BY LINDSAY S. BUCHANAN
Morning News
lbuchanan@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Mary McLeod was named the \$1,000 winner of Florence's Biggest Loser on Thursday night, one of 60 contestants who collectively lost more than 1,000 pounds through United Way of Florence

County's Burn and Learn initiative and fundraiser.

"This program is the best thing that has happened," McLeod said as she was holding back tears. "It has changed so many people's lives, including mine. This is for all 60 contestants. You've worked hard, everybody."

After 10 weeks of pushing themselves to the limit and

beyond with exercise and changed nutritional habits, the contestants and sponsors of Biggest Loser celebrated their success during a ceremony at Victor's Bistro and later with a dance party at Da Massimo's in downtown Florence.

Contestants were emotional as they thanked their trainers and support teams,

including second-place winner John McElwee, who decided to return his \$500 prize to United Way to add to its annual campaign, which will be wrapping up next week.

"I really, really want to thank the United Way and McLeod," McElwee said.

See **LOSER**, Page 4A

ArtFields

The art is ready to be unveiled

Ten-day festival to begin with a self-guided Art Walk

BY DONNA TRACY
Morning News
dtracy@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — A flurry of activity Thursday night on Main Street marked the eve of the second ArtFields as installation teams moved from venue to venue.

MORE ONLINE

For more details on the 10-day event, visit artfieldssc.org.

The bustle to add the final polish on Lake City's 10-day art fest is expected to pay off today

as visitors from across the Southeast, and perhaps farther, get their first chance to explore more than 400 art-works scattered throughout the downtown community.

A year of planning culminates with opening celebrations at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Green, followed by the self-guided Art Walk through the more than 50 venues hosting art.

According to Taronda Jordan, a core member of the ArtFields team, the Art Walk will be full of festive entertainment with street musicians and several venues providing refreshments.

Jordan said the Art Walk is the part she is most looking forward to, as it will be the first chance for people to really view the art.

"It's the excitement of seeing people flocking through town, and entertainment along the streets," Jordan said.

Jordan said those attending opening ceremonies will receive fans printed with the evening's activities, which continue till 8 p.m. After that, several venues, including the Railway Restaurant on South Acline Street, Table 118 on Main Street and Tobacco Row — Lake City's newest restaurant on Sauls Street — will offer live entertainment to wrap up the evening.

For an early taste of ArtFields, the Farmers and Artisans Market opens at

An evening of music & food



PHOTO BY VEASEY CORNWALL MORNING NEWS



ABOVE: Benjamin Woods conducts youth musicians Thursday at the 14th annual Taste of the Symphony, put on by the Florence Symphony Guild at Rose-neath Farm. Proceeds from the event help benefit the Florence Symphony, the Florence Youth Symphony and the Florence-Darlington Strings. "The arts really need us," said Courtney Mozingo, co-chair of the event. Michelene Sheehy, president of the guild, was happy with the turnout. "This is a banner year — we have 22 chefs," she said. **BOTTOM LEFT** A "Phantom of the Opera"-themed table spread.



ASSISTING SENIORS

County Office on Aging recognizes volunteers. **A2**



RED RAIDER REALIGNMENT

B-E, Calhoun County ready for move back to Class A. **B1**

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



TheTandD.com

3 SECTIONS, 32 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 115

S.C. State nearing 'financial disaster'

■ Without state help, \$100 million default would fall on taxpayers, says trustees' budget committee chair Katon Dawson, the former head of the S.C. Republican Party

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina State is a month away from running out of money and is hoping state lawmakers will save the institution from "financial disaster," the description used Thursday by the university's budget committee chairman.

Katon Dawson, who heads the budget panel for the board of trustees and once was leader of the S.C. Republi-

can Party, said S.C. State will have a \$1 million shortfall next month and will not be able to meet the \$2.26 million payroll for its 1,045 employees.

"I cannot tell you where the revenue stream is coming from," Dawson told trustees Thursday, noting the money next month will "disappear very quickly. I don't see any hidden money."

He said the university probably would not have been able to meet payroll for the current month without a

\$1.3 million check written by Sodexo, the university's dining services contractor. Initially, Sodexo said it would not pay the commission detailed in its contract because the university owes the company \$2.3 million.

But Dawson said there is a real chance the university could completely run out of money and go under unless the General Assembly provides the university about \$13.6 million to meet its immediate needs.

"When we need \$13.6 million, it is

not just the bills that have accumulated, but the bills that will accumulate for these months going forward to the end of the fiscal year," S.C. State President Thomas Elzey said, noting it is becoming more and more difficult to pay vendors.

The school has about \$6.1 million in outstanding bills since August 2013.

"They (vendors) have worked with us and so far they have," Elzey said.

See FINANCIAL, A3

Verdict in Hawaii is guilty

Ex-soldier could face death penalty in killing daughter formerly of Orangeburg

By SAM EIRLING
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A federal jury on Thursday convicted an Orangeburg native and former Hawaii soldier of murder in the beating death of his 5-year-old daughter, a capital offense in a state that doesn't have the death penalty.

Jurors in Honolulu will now be asked to decide during a penalty phase whether to sentence Nareem Williams to death for killing Talia Williams.

Talia Williams was originally from Orangeburg, but was sent to live with her father after a family court hearing in December 2004.

Hawaii abolished capital punishment in 1957. But Williams still faces a possible death sentence because the crime occurred on military property, and he is being tried in the federal system.

The jury found Williams guilty of all five counts: murder, aiding murder, conspiracy, obstruction of justice and making false statements.

The victim's biological mother, Tarshia Williams, said she was happy with the verdict.

"She can rest now that her killer is guilty of what he did to her," said Tarshia Williams, who is not married to the defendant but has the same last name because they are distant rela-

THE BASICS OF FIGHTING CRIME



CHRISTOPHER HURTY/160

Speaking as part of a panel, Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Chief Wendell Davis talks about young offenders during Thursday's crime summit at Orangeburg/Calhoun Technical College. About 100 community leaders and residents attended the summit that was organized by the county's Task Force on Crime. **View more photos and video at TheTandD.com**

Summit focuses on keeping kids out of trouble

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

It's been called the vicious circle.

Law enforcement, elected officials, pastors and residents of Orangeburg County came together to not only to talk, but to make a crucial step toward reducing crime in the community.

"We realize the negative impact crime has on Orangeburg County," said Linda Stroman, director of the county's Task Force on Crime. "Everyone must get involved to combat crime."

Held at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical Col-

lege were at Thursday's summit. Organizers billed it as a meeting to discuss the effect family, education and the judicial system can have on preventing crime.

Participants said young offenders and repeat offenders are the root of the problem in Orangeburg, creating a circle of crime.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Chief Wendell Davis has seen young offenders go into the system. They get out of prison only to find their old friends, he said. A former inmate will then look for an income, "which generally that is to commit a crime."

not come out," he said.

First Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe said he has picked out 15 murder cases for study. He found that 10 of those 15 murderers started with one simple crime: truancy.

The solicitor said that 10 years ago, the biggest contributor to the crime rate was drugs, plain and simple. That has changed. Today, mental health issues and the deterioration of the family structure contribute most, he said.

Davis said the guidance that used to be found

Brian Symmes

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