

From: Taillon, Jeff


To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>

Date: 2/12/2013 1:02:09 PM

Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Tuesday, February 12, 2013



sleep paralysis
MUSC wants to study sufferers of phenomenon, frightening visions. **D1**



A better baseball can boost college game
GENE SAPAKOFF, C1

The Post and Courier

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TUESDAY, February 12, 2013

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Charleston area housing market off to strong start this year
Business, B6



Remains of 200 dogs found behind home in Berkeley County
Local & State, B1

Flawed credit reports? Errors found in files of 1 in 4 consumers
Business, B6



Spruced up Brittlebank ready to play key role on SEWE weekend
Melanie Balog column, B1



East Cooper Sporting Goods: \$10 for \$20 worth of merchandise
See A2



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Setting the record straight... A2



POPE'S RESIGNATION

Who will lead?

With Benedict XVI stepping down, some say it's time for energetic leader from outside Europe



Pope Benedict XVI attends a ceremony Saturday at the Vatican. The pope announced during a mass Monday that he plans to step down at the end of this month.

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's announcement that he will resign on Feb. 28 opens the door to an array of possible successors, from the conservative cardinal of Milan to a contender from Ghana and several Latin Americans.

But don't count on a radical change of course for the Catholic Church: Benedict appointed the majority of cardinals who will choose his successor from within their own ranks.

There's no clear front-runner, though several leading candidates have been mentioned over the years as "papabile" — or having the qualities of a pope.

So, will the papacy return to Italy after three decades of a Polish and a German pope? Or does Latin America, which counts some 40 percent of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, deserve one of their own at the church's helm?

Will a younger cardinal be considered, now that future popes can feel free to resign? The 80-plus cardinals who are younger than 80 and eligible to vote will weigh all those questions and more when they sequester themselves in the Sistine Chapel next month to choose Benedict's successor, a conclave that will likely produce a new pope by Easter.

Some said Benedict's resignation presents an opportunity to turn to the qualities of a pope.

Please see **POPE**, Page A4



The Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmo, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Charleston, talks about the pope's resignation.

Decision bring surprise, understanding locally

BY ADAM PARKER
aparker@postandcourier.com

In the recent movie "Habemus Papam" ("We Have a Pope"), Italian filmmaker Nanni Moretti presents a newly elected pope who, feeling inadequate to the task, panics and runs off into the streets of Rome.

It was a respectful portrayal of doubt and power and institutional faith, admired by the Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmo, bishop of

the Catholic Diocese of Charleston. It also highlighted the distinction between life in the Vatican and life outside its walls, as well as the renowned secrecy of the Holy See.

It's possible the world will never know more than what 85-year-old Pope Benedict XVI has already announced: that he is resigning his post because of deteriorating health. It's also

Please see **CATHOLICS**, Page A4



VIDEOS: Go to postandcourier.com/videos to hear Bishop Robert E. Guglielmo's statement on the pope's announced resignation and to watch local Catholics share their reaction to the news.

Suspect's mother: System failed us

Says hazing, forced meds hurt daughter

BY ANDREW KNAAPP
aknaapp@postandcourier.com

Alice Boland used her parent's old checkbook to spend \$530 on the pistol she's accused of using to threaten Ashley Hall officials last week, her family said Monday.

But her mother said the purchase was just the latest failure of various systems that could have prevented the incident that landed her in jail.

Dellann Boland of Lady's Island blamed her daughter's mental illness on hazing and harassment that she endured in high school and at the College of Charleston. She often was teased because of her intelligence, her mother said.

If doctors had listened to her parents' pleas for natural treatment, instead of force-feeding her medication, she might not have become so troubled, her mother said. More than a decade ago, her family unsuccessfully sued the college and various health agencies, alleging that their treatment permanently damaged her.

And Dellann Boland faulted the firearms shop for not matching the name on her daughter's driver's license with the check she presented Feb. 1. Three days later, the police said she pointed the loaded .22-caliber handgun at a school official and pulled the trigger.

The Taurus PT22 didn't go off because no ammunition was loaded into its chamber.

"Normally in any business, if a person isn't on the checking account, (that business) shouldn't accept the check," Dellann Boland, 69, said. "If that happened, she wouldn't be in all this trouble."

Dellann Boland and her husband, Donald, said they told authorities about her daughter's use of the unused checkbook.

But Earl Woodham, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said the method of purchase would not have made the transaction illegal as it pertains to gun laws.

Attempts to contact Walther's Gun Shop and its owner, Robert Mock, were not successful.

Please see **GUN**, Page A5



Alice Boland faces attempted murder and gun charges in the Feb. 4 episode.

Inside

Scott discusses violence during MUSC visit. **A8**
Q&A: Graham on guns. **A8**

Inspiring skier returns from S. Korea with 2 bronzes

BY JADE MCDUFFIE
jmcduffie@postandcourier.com

Charleston alpine skier Katie Smith returned from the 2013 Special Olympics Winter Games in South Korea with two bronze medals. And of course, being the gregarious person she is, she managed to get herself interviewed by a Polish television station while there.

Katie has Down syndrome and won her first bronze medal on the first day of competing in the giant slalom event.

Later that day, she and her parents, Rick and Kathy Smith, went to a traditional Korean restaurant with other teammates and their parents and attended a classical music performance by an orchestra of mentally disabled musicians.

"It was simply fantastic and very inspiring — despite our tired girl nodding off toward the end," Kathy said.

Katie won her second bronze medal in the slalom event. "What a thrilling and nail-biting day for us," the Smiths wrote in an email update. After Katie's first run, she asked her father how she did. He told her it was her best so far and she was in fourth place. But Katie wasn't satisfied.

"She looked me straight in the eye and said, 'I want to win,'" Kathy said.



Katie Smith brought home two bronze medals in the giant slalom and slalom events in the 2013 Special Olympics Winter Games in South Korea last week.

PHOTO BY JADE MCDUFFIE

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Dreher routs Blue Ridge 66-33 in Class 3A. **B1****The State**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

**UP OR DOWN?**Which SEC East football teams have best prospects for 2013 season? **B1**FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Pope Benedict XVI announced Monday that he intends to resign Feb. 28.**'The Holy Spirit is guiding him'**

S.C. Catholics react to Pope Benedict's resignation with shock, sadness and anticipation

By CAROLYN CLICK
cclick@thestate.com

South Carolina's Roman Catholics reacted Monday to the startling news of Pope Benedict XVI's retirement in much the same way Catholics around the world responded to the announcement — with shock, sadness and, in some cases, anticipation of a new leader.

"I thought he was really inspirational and it is sad to see him go," said Donnie Iorio, a USC sophomore from Fort Mill who followed his usual morning

routine of opening Google News, only to find the pope's resignation at the top of the news thread.

"It is really upsetting to see him go but good to see that he understands what is good for the church," said Iorio, 20. "I do believe the Holy Spirit is guiding

him."

Benedict made the announcement at the Vatican, telling a small group of cardinals, that "before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise" of

leadership.

In making the decision, the 85-year-old pope became the first pontiff in six centuries to resign rather than die in office. In the statement, made in Latin and quickly translated into

SEE POPE PAGE A10

RESIDENCE HALLS OVERHAULC. ALLUKA BERRY/CADDERBY@THESTATE.COM
USC freshman Laurin Beckroge, 18, studies in her dorm room at Patterson Hall on the USC campus. Unlike older dorm rooms, the renovated rooms have more space and a sink and vanity.**Less like a dorm, more like a home: USC renovating student housing**By ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thestate.com

University of South Carolina freshman Laurin Beckroge chose to live in recently renovated Patterson Hall because of its bigger rooms, airy open lobby and larger kitchens and common areas. The \$32.5 million makeover has the feel of a hotel.

Next door, the 56-year-old McClintock residence hall — one of three dorms that make

more cramped, from the hallways to the rooms. Residents say the air conditioning doesn't always work and door handles fall off.

"When I walked in, I just got a headache," Beckroge said of visiting the Women's Quad dorms. "Just wasn't nice."

McClintock and sister

C. ALLUKA BERRY/CADDERBY@THESTATE.COM
USC junior Chanel Tinsley checks email in her dorm room at McClintock residence hall.

ton, which make up the 551-bed Women's Quad, will be closed next school year while undergoing a \$27.2 million makeover.

The work is part of the effort by the state's flagship university to renovate residence

rooms and other amenities that attract students. USC also has plans to add rooms via a public-private partnership that would build apartment buildings.

USC has spent \$94.6 mil-

Legislators: Get coaches off state planes

House panel votes to end using aircraft for recruiting

By ADAM BEAM
abeam@thestate.com

State colleges and universities could not use state-owned aircraft to recruit athletes, according to a proposal a House budget subcommittee approved Monday.

INSIDE: State Rep. Jim Merrill, R-Berkeley, proposed the ban after learning Clemson University football coaches have used a state-owned plane for recruiting trips. **A5**

Agency promises safeguards on tax refunds. **A8**

"I don't think that anyone in the state feels like they need to be spending tax dollars and time in the state plane to go recruit for athletic pro-

SEE PLANES PAGE A4

Mountain Dew pops top on breakfast drinkBy CANDICE CHOI
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — If you don't like coffee or tea, Mountain Dew has a new breakfast drink that might perk you up.

PepsiCo Inc. is rolling out a new drink called Kickstart this month that has Mountain Dew flavor but is made with 5 percent juice and Vitamins B and C, with an extra jolt of caffeine.

The company, based in Purchase, N.Y., is hoping to boost sales by reaching Mountain Dew fans at a new time of day: morning.

PepsiCo said it doesn't consider Kickstart to be an energy drink, noting that it still has far less caffeine than drinks like Monster and Red Bull and none of the mysterious ingredients that have raised concerns among lawmakers and con-



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, 2B GIRLS BEGIN PLAYOFFS



BUSINESS, 7A Agency targeting tax fraud

The Greenville News

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TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

INSIDE

State schools not improving fast enough, education panel says, 3A

FINAL EDITION

Millions spent on improper jobless pay

State Senate wants answers on where \$54 million went

By Tim Smith
Staff writer
tsmith@greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — Some senators are irked that South Carolina is spending millions of dollars each year on unemployment payments to people who

shouldn't be receiving them.

In fact, the state last year spent an estimated \$54 million on improper payments, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Members of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee told GreenvilleOnline.com that figure must be reduced.

"That is just not acceptable," said Sen. Thomas Alexander, a Walhalla Republican who serves as chairman of the committee.

"We're just going to have to find out why that is happening in South Carolina to the extent that it is."

Sen. Kevin Bryant, an Anderson Republican who serves as chairman of a Labor subcommittee that talked to Department of Employment and Workforce officials about the problem, agrees that the numbers have to change.

"I don't understand what's going on," he said. "And I don't think they care. Because every

time we ask them about it, they just give you some crazy answer."

Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican who also serves on the committee, also said the number is unacceptable.

"We need to push that number down further," he said.

See JOBLESS, Page 4A

Haley lauds medical school

Greenville-trained doctors 'solution' to shortage, she says

By Liv Osby
Staff writer
losby@greenvilleonline.com

Gov. Nikki Haley visited the University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Greenville on Monday and declared it "a welcome gift to the state" that is helping to solve the physician shortage by producing tomorrow's doctors.

"It was amazing," Haley said after her first tour of the school, which opened last July with a charter class of 53 students.

"In a time when I'm very concerned about health for South Carolina, and in a time when we've seen increased demand for physicians, and increased demand for how we're going to get more to the table, this is a great solution to the problem," she said.

"I could not be more thrilled. And the entire state should be proud."

The nation is expected to be short more than 90,000 physicians — including 35,000 surgeons and 27,000 specialists — by the end of this decade.

And South Carolina ranks 34th in supply of practicing physicians, with nearly every county designated a shortage area for primary care doctors,



Gov. Nikki Haley

POPE BENEDICT XVI 2005 - 2013

POPE STUNS WORLD WITH RESIGNATION



Pope Benedict XVI, who holds a weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, leaves in June 2010 after finishing his message. AP

Pontiff search set to begin March 1

By Eric Lyman and John Bacon
USA Today

The conservative pope who brought tweeting to the Vatican stunned the Roman Catholic world Monday, becoming the first pope in 600 years to resign as leader

"After having repeatedly examined my conscience before

INSIDE

See SCHOOL, Page 4A



High School Basketball Playoffs, 1B

- Hanahan girls 39, Strom Thurmond 23
- Ridge Spring-Monetta girls 41, Great Falls 26
- C.A. Johnson girls 48, Fox Creek 27

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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Wagener man facing no charges after shots fired



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

A law enforcement officer stands at a road block on New Holland Road in Wagener after shots were fired outside of a residence.

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

A man who fired a shotgun into the air multiple times in Wagener on Monday and then left the scene will face no criminal charges, even though law enforcement officers spent several hours dealing with the situation.

A search by the Aiken County Bloodhound Tracking Team for the individual, described by at least one relative as suicidal, was called off at 6:15 p.m.

"He has not committed any criminal act that I can think of at this point," said Capt. Troy Elwell of the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, shortly after the search was called off. "He lives in the county, and you can shoot a gun in the county. He didn't aim it at anybody, and he didn't threaten anybody with it."

Elwell declined to identify the man, whom he described as being in his late 20s. The law enforcement officer called the incident at 2899 New Holland Road "a wellness check with unique cir-

He lives in the county, and you can shoot a gun in the county. He didn't aim it at anybody, and he didn't threaten anybody with it.

Capt. Troy Elwell,
Aiken County Sheriff's Office

circumstances, not a standoff."

According to Elwell, a family member of the man called the Sheriff's Office around 2:15 p.m. "because the suspect was drunk and making threats of suicide. When we arrived at the scene," he continued, "another family member was already present and there was a heated discussion occurring between the two (the family member and the suspect) outside. The suspect then took a

shotgun that he already had, aimed it into the air and fired off multiple rounds."

The family member "fled the scene" afterward and "the deputies that were there started forming a perimeter around the house" on the property because they thought the man had gone inside, Elwell said. "Then we waited on the appropriate manpower to get there before we started searching the residence and the other buildings."

Officers with the Wagener Police Department, representatives of the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division, and the Aiken County Sheriff's Office SWAT team responded to the incident.

"We assumed (the suspect) was in the house until we searched it, and he was not," Elwell said.

Law enforcement officers also searched four outbuildings and two campers on the property. The shotgun fired by the man was found outside of one of the outbuildings. Tear gas was deployed into that building before law enforcement officers checked to see if the man was inside, Elwell said.

Please see **SHOTS**, Page 12A

Council gives final approval to traffic solution

Chukker Creek driveway extension gets full support

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

The Chukker Creek Elementary School traffic abatement plan got final approval by Aiken City Council Monday night.

The motion to approve it passed unanimously — Councilwoman Lessie Price and Councilman Dick Dewar were not in attendance but were present during the first reading, which was unanimously approved Jan. 28.

The plan is to extend the school's driveway, currently 650 feet in length, by 1,800 feet and add 40 more parking spaces to the school's property located on Chukker Creek Road.

Currently, the traffic during student drop-off and pick-up is spilling out onto Chukker Creek Road and causing traffic to back up. Some residents who live on or right off of Chukker Creek Road said they have waited in that traffic for up to 45 minutes.

Pick-up, which starts at 2 p.m., is said to be the peak traffic time. Approximately 1,800 feet of cars have been seen parked on Chukker Creek Road toward Whiskey Road and approximately 500 feet toward Plantation South, according to Civil Engineer Tilden Hilderbrand.

The school has 852 students and only 10 to 15 percent of them use the bus.

Not much discussion occurred Monday evening. Two residents spoke for the proposed plan.

"Thank you for the unanimous approval of the design for the diminution of the back up on Chukker Creek. I find it to be a useful design," said resident Tony Sealy, who added that the design has been used by other schools and it has helped mitigate their traffic problems.

Another resident said that he's seen motorists try to pass the line of vehicles on the two-lane road, some ending up in the ditch to avoid oncoming traffic. He stated that he wants something done before a serious accident occurs.

Please see **TRAFFIC**, Page 12A

AREA DEATHS

Dorothy Irene Spires,
Warrenville

Elizabeth Wilson Baumann,
Aiken

Grady Alexander Wells, Aiken

Mary Ella Williams, Aiken

Ora Lee Durham, Aiken

Robert Carl Romine, Aiken

Second arrest made in shooting death

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

Another arrest was made Monday morning in a shooting that occurred last week that put an Aiken man in the hospital.

Devontay Kaseem Gordon, 22, of Aiken, surrendered himself to the



ment of Public Safety.

Latoya Denise Edwards, 28, of Belton, was arrested last week and charged with attempted murder in the same case.

35-year-old Anthony Oakman, who was found face-down in front of Colleton Court Apartments on Colleton Avenue. He suffered several gunshot wounds, including one to the head, according to reports.

Oakman was transported to Georgia Regents Medical Center for "advanced medical treatment."

tween two individuals, during which Oakman was reportedly shot.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with any further information related to this incident is asked to contact CrimeStoppers of the Midlands at 888-CRIME-SC (888-724-6373). Callers will



MEDAL OF HONOR AWARDED

Army Staff Sgt. Clinton Romesha receives honor for valor during outnumbered Afghan fight 9A



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SEARCH FOR A SUPERINTENDENT

Moss supporters cite vision, tech emphasis



Moss of Lee County, N.C.

Grad rates also improved during time as superintendent

By TOM BARTON
 tbarton@beaufortgazette.com
 843-706-8109

Jeffrey Moss' supporters say he has expanded classroom technology and improved graduation rates while leading his North Carolina school district. Detractors say he

denied school for a student on long-term suspension and cursed at two people during a public forum.

Beaufort County residents can decide for themselves Wednesday when Moss appears at the first of three public forums to introduce finalists for the Beaufort County

School District superintendent position.

The public can submit written questions at the forums or on the district's website at www.beaufort.k12.nc.us.

Please see MOSS on 7A

MORE SUPERINTENDENT COVERAGE

■ Jeffrey Moss' public forum will be 7-8 p.m. Wednesday at the district office at 2900 Mink Point Blvd., Beaufort. To see when the other candidates' forums are, turn to 7A.

■ Click on this story at beaufortgazette.com to view YouTube video of Jeffrey Moss at a school board meeting in Sanford, N.C., and also see his candidate file and the state report card for the Lee County, N.C., school district, where he is superintendent.

VACANCY in the PAPACY

Benedict XVI announces resignation, first in 600 years



File • The Associated Press

Pope Benedict XVI leaves at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. On Monday the Vatican announced Benedict will resign Feb. 28.

By NICOLE WINFIELD and VICTOR L. SIMPSON
 The Associated Press

With a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope has done in more than half a millennium, stunning the world by announcing his resignation Monday and leaving the already troubled Catholic Church to replace the leader of its 1 billion followers by Easter.

Not even his closest associates had advance word of the news, a bombshell that he dropped during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. And with no clear favorites to succeed him, another surprise likely awaits when the cardinals elect Benedict's successor next month.



Pope Benedict XVI

Area Catholics surprised, supportive of decision

By ERIN MOODY

parishioner at Holy Family Cath-

Nuke test suspected in North Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
 The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea apparently conducted a widely anticipated nuclear test early today, strongly indicated by an "explosion-like" earthquake that monitoring agencies around the globe said appeared to be unnatural.

Pyeongyang did not confirm it conducted a test, which it had been threatening to do for weeks.

Any test would be seen as another big step toward North Korea's goal of building a warhead that can be mounted on a missile. It would also be a bold signal from young leader Kim Jong Un, who took power in December 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong Il.

The South Korean Defense Ministry, which raised its military alert level after the quake, said it was trying to determine whether it was a test. Nuclear blasts can create tremors but they are distinct from those caused by natural

Please see NUKE on 7A

AREA WOMAN CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER

Gun paid for with check from parents' checkbook

By ANDREW KNAPP
 postandcourier.com

CHARLESTON — Alice Boland used her parent's old checkbook to spend \$320 on the pistol she's accused of using to threaten Ashley Hall officials last week, her fam-





NOT ENOUGH STING

No. 1-seeded Union County girls fall to Seneca in the 3A state playoffs. **SPORTS, B1**

Herald-Journal

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IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Still snowed in

The workweek opens with a white-knuckle ride Monday in the snow-clobbered Northeast, as drivers encounter unplowed streets and snowbanks so high it's impossible to see around corners. Schools remained closed across much of New England and New York, and more than 80,000 homes and businesses were still without power after an epic storm swept through Friday and Saturday.

PAGE A3

Drones face cuts

The Pentagon for the first time is considering scaling back the massive buildup of drones it has overseen in the past few years, both to save money and to adapt to changing security threats as the Afghanistan war winds down.

PAGE A3

Wild pricing

Want to know how much a hip replacement will cost? The amounts could vary astronomically, a study finds. Routine hip replacement surgery on a healthy patient without insurance may cost as little as \$11,000 — or up to nearly \$126,000. **PAGE A7**

Pioneer for deaf

Victor Galloway, a 1947 Spartanburg High School graduate who overcame deafness to become a chemist, educator and actor, died in Texas on Jan. 16 after a long illness. He was 84. **PAGE C1**

Underperforming

An annual report by the state's Education Oversight Committee shows that schools are not improving fast enough to meet the panel's 2020 goals. **PAGE C3**

Pioneers poised for No. 1

Undefeated SMC stresses team unity, features 6 top scorers from the Upstate

By **TODD SHANESY**
todd.shanesy@shj.com

One of the most remarkable stories in college basketball this season, Spartanburg Methodist is about to reach another level of significance.

Second-ranked SMC (25-0), now the only remaining undefeated team in junior college, is poised to become the No. 1 team in the nation this afternoon when the latest NJCAA Division I poll is released. The top squad, Hutchinson

(Kan.) Community College (24-1), lost at home Saturday to Butler (Kan.) Community College, 70-64.

It didn't take long for word of that game to spread around the SMC campus. Several of the players, as well as Pioneers head coach Jeff Brookman on a rare weekend off, kept up with the game on the Internet.

"I was watching updates on Twitter," SMC sophomore forward Jalen Nesbitt said. "As soon as I saw they lost, I told everybody ... I've been keeping a close watch for about a month. I've been waiting for this."

SMC is on the longest winning streak in

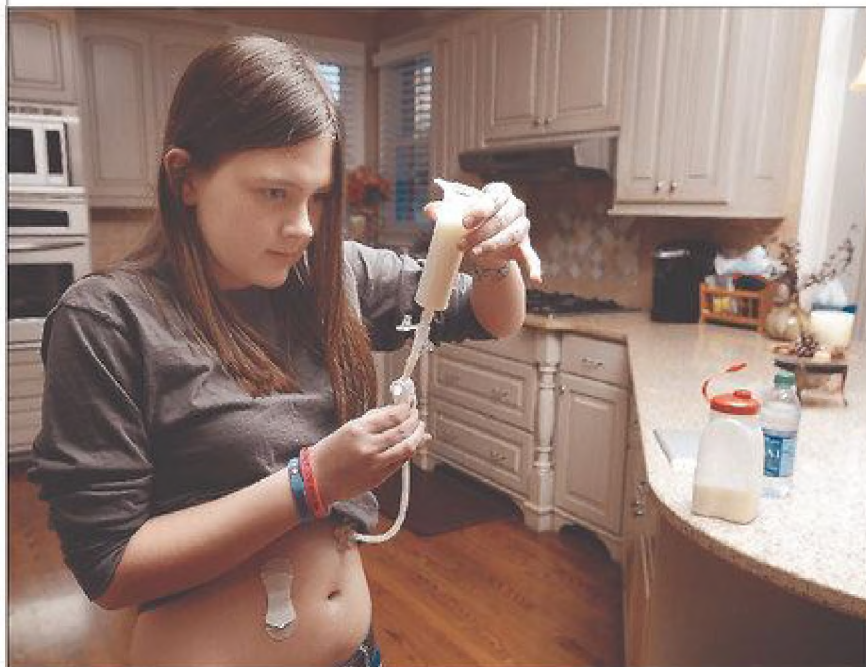
◆ SEE PIONEERS PAGE A5



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHJ.COM
Spartanburg Methodist College's Ronell Crockett, right, shoots against Clinton Junior College's Quinton Nance on Thursday. Second-ranked SMC is undefeated after 25 games this season.

UPSTATE SEEING MORE CASES

Formula for success



PHOTOS BY ALEX C. HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

Michaela Shelley prepares her feeding equipment to use. Michaela lives with food allergies so severe that the only foods she can eat safely without a reaction are bananas and lemons. She must eat an elemental formula consisting of broken-down amino acids each day to survive.

Friends with food allergies use feeding tubes to eat, survive as they hope for a breakthrough

By **DUSTIN WYATT**
dustin.wyatt@shj.com

At dinner time, Michaela Shelley doesn't fill a plate with meats and vegetables.

Instead, the 14-year-old grabs a white, milky substance from the kitchen



Pope to step down Feb. 28

Worn-out Benedict shocks cardinals right before Lent

By **VICTOR L. SIMPSON**
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — With a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope has done in more than half a millennium, stunning the world by announcing his resignation Monday and leaving the already troubled Catholic Church to replace the leader of its 1 billion followers by Easter.

Not even his closest associates had advance word of the news, a bombshell that he dropped during a routine meeting of Vatican cardinals. And with no clear favorites to succeed him, another surprise likely awaits when the cardinals elect Benedict's successor next month.

"Without doubt this is a historic moment," said Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, a protege and former theology student of Benedict's who is considered a papal contender. "Right now, 1.2 billion Catholics the world over are holding their breath."

The Feb. 28 resignation allows for a fast-track conclave to elect a new pope, since the traditional nine days of mourning that would follow a pope's death doesn't have to be observed. It also gives the 85-year-old Benedict great sway over the choice of his successor.

Though he will not himself vote, he has hand-picked the bulk of the



LANDER UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM RANKED NO. 7 IN THE NATION, 1B

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

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INDEX-JOURNAL

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Panel: SC not improving fast enough

Education Oversight Committee offers plenty of ideas, but will state legislature act?

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Holding back third-graders who are far behind in their reading skills and requiring elementary school teachers to earn a literacy credential are among ideas being considered by South Carolina's education oversight panel.

An annual report released Monday

by the Education Oversight Committee shows that schools are not improving fast enough to meet the panel's 2020 goals. The unsurprising report — which looks similar to previous reports — prompted chairman Neil Robinson to call for action.

"In order for the world to be within our reach, the path forward needs to look quite differently," he said. "We can't continue to operate our schools

the same way and expect different results."

The report shows that far too many schools are underperforming — with 9 percent of students statewide attending schools at or near the bottom of the state's grading system — and one in five high school students not graduating within five years.

Many of those who do graduate aren't prepared.

According to the state's technical colleges, 41 percent of graduates need remediation in math and reading, costing taxpayers \$21 million annually for the faculty needed to teach students what they should have learned in high school.

Robinson advocates tossing the high school exit exam, which students first take their sophomore year and can retake multiple times to pass. The

test, which costs the state \$3.6 million, does nothing to help students entering college or trying to get a job, he said. Robinson suggests replacing it with the ACT college entrance exam and WorkKeys, tests that assess workers' skills and award credentials in the bronze, silver, gold and platinum levels — which students can take to

See **PANEL**, page 4A

SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICS

BRIGHT FUTURE?

Upstate state senator says he's leaning toward running vs. Lindsey Graham

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

A possible contender for a United States Senate seat, state Sen. Lee Bright

visited the Lakelands and argued government is too involved.

Bright, a senator for the 12th district that covers parts of Spartanburg and Greenville, took his message of fiscal and

social conservatism to Lander University on Monday.

"I can't think of anything where I think,

See **BRIGHT**, page 4A

FRANK BUMB / INDEX-JOURNAL

State Sen. Lee Bright, of the 12th District, which covers Spartanburg and Greenville, speaks to students Monday at Lander.



■ McCORMICK

Hiring freeze without motion

School board halts adding personnel, but forgot motion

By MICHELLE LAXER
mlaxer@indexjournal.com

McCORMICK — A hiring freeze of nonessential positions in McCormick School District was approved by the district's board of trustees in a meeting Monday night, but was done so without a motion or second from any members.

The motion passed 4-1, with Al Bell casting the dissenting vote. But a review of an Index-Journal tape recording of the meeting does not reveal any board member making a motion to vote on the hiring freeze and no subsequent second, which is required before a vote as dictated by Robert's Rules of Order.

When reached by phone late Monday night, board chairman Jim Lambeth stood by the vote, saying a motion was definitely made.

"I know it was done," he said. "I know we had the motion, and it was passed 4-1 with Mr. Bell being the only dissenting vote."

Lambeth could not definitively recall who made the motion and second to vote on the freeze, citing commotion during the talks.

Board members and superintendent Earlean Smiley, who

See **MOTION**, page 7A



JIM LAMBETH

■ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Home builders meet with politicians



State Rep. Shannon Riley, left,



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Finalist Moss touts technology, test results

However, superintendent candidate also subject of controversy

By TOM BARTON
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843-706-8169

Jeffrey Moss' supporters say he has expanded classroom technology and improved graduation rates while leading his North Carolina school district. Detractors say he denied school for a

student on long-term suspension and cursed at two people during a public forum.

Beaufort County residents can decide for themselves Wednesday when Moss appears at the first of three public forums to introduce finalists for the Beaufort County School District

superintendent position.

The public can submit written questions at the forums or on the district's website at www.beaufort.k12.nc.us.

Moss' forum will be 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the district office.



Moss

LEARN MORE

The public forum for Jeffrey Moss will be 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the district office, 2900 Mink Point Blvd., Beaufort. For details about the other forums, see 7A

On the Web: To view Jeffrey Moss' candidate file and a YouTube video of Moss at a school board meeting in Sanford, N.C., click on this story at islandpacket.com.

Please see MOSS on 7A

N. Korean nuke test suspected

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea apparently conducted a widely anticipated nuclear test today, strongly indicated by an "explosion-like" earthquake that monitoring agencies around the globe said appeared to be unnatural.

There was no confirmation from Pyongyang that it had conducted a test, which it has been threatening for weeks.

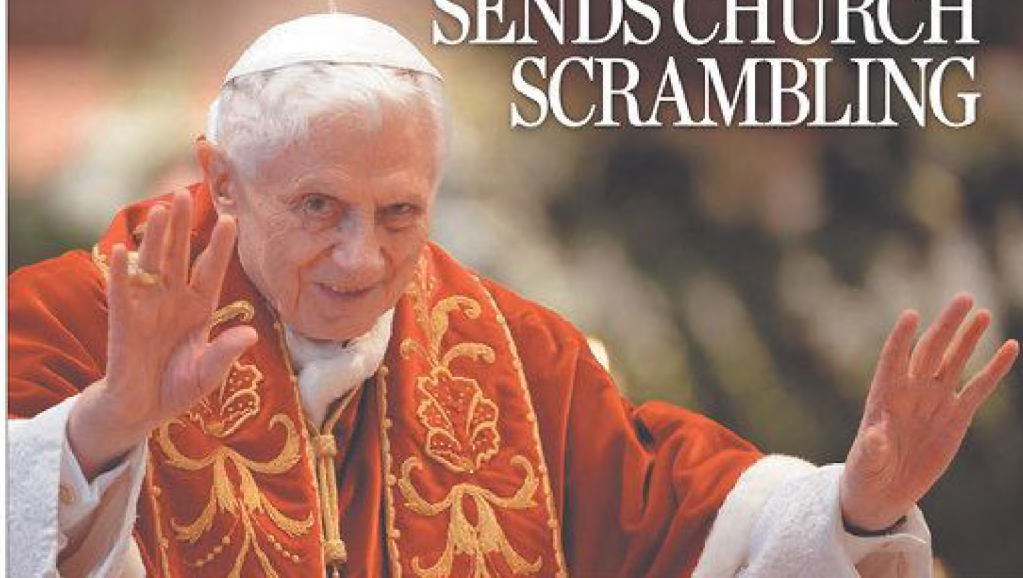
Any test would be seen as another big step toward North Korea's goal of building a warhead that can be mounted on a missile. It would also be a bold signal from young leader Kim Jong Un, who took power in December 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong Il.

The South Korean Defense Ministry, which raised its military alert level after the quake, said it was trying to determine whether it was a test.

Nuclear blasts can create tremors but they are distinct from those caused by natural earthquakes.

Please see N. KOREA on 7A

POPE'S RESIGNATION SENDS CHURCH SCRAMBLING



ERIC VANDEVILLE • McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Pope Benedict XVI attends a ceremony Saturday to mark the 900th birthday of the Knights of Malta at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Pope Benedict XVI announced during a mass Monday that he plans to step down Feb. 28.

ALICE BOLAND CASE

Gun bought with parent's checkbook

By ANDREW KNAPP
postandcourier.com

CHARLESTON — Alice Boland used her parent's old checkbook to spend \$320 on the pistol she's accused of using to threaten Ashley Hall officials last week, her family said Monday.

But her mother said the purchase was just the



Benedict, citing frail health, first to step down since 1415

By NICOLE WINFIELD and VICTOR L. SIMPSON
The Associated Press

With a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope has done in more than half a millennium, stunning the world by announcing his resignation Monday and leaving the already troubled Catholic Church to replace the leader of its 1 billion followers by Easter.

Not even his closest associates had advance word of the news, a bombshell that he dropped during a routine meeting of Vatican cardinals. And with no clear favorites to succeed him, another surprise likely awaits when the cardinals elect Benedict's successor next month.

Area Catholics surprised — but supportive

By ERIN MOODY
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843-706-8184

Catholics across Beaufort County, like those across the world, were stunned to learn Monday of Pope Benedict XVI's plans to resign.

"I was shocked. But I can understand if he is, as it came out in the news, if he is failing physically, and I guess there was some mention about his mental capacity to handle the job," said Joe Hagan, parishioner at Holy Family Catholic



Odd

Bomb threat leads to school evacuation

Local, A2



Vols look to Godley as leader

Sports, B1



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Enrollment drop costing SCSU millions

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

Declining enrollment for the spring semester at South Carolina State University could create a deficit of \$5.1 million, but Vice President for Finance Eric Eaton said the administration has a plan in place to balance the budget.

In addition, the university is aggressively recruiting students for the coming year, President Dr. Cynthia Warrick said.

"We're hitting every avenue," she said. Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Franklin Evans "and I have been making the rounds with the technical colleges and the presidents and vice presidents of academics so they know we're serious and want their students."

Enrollment dropped from 3,807 last fall to 3,479, Eaton told trustees last week. That is costing the university about \$3.2 million.

There will also be an additional loss of about \$1.9 million in housing and food services, he

said.

Trustee Anthony Grant noted the university already has a rolling deficit of more than \$6 million.

"We've got to get a plan as to how we stem that tide in terms of (the Education and General) deficit," Grant said. "It's been increasing year after year. It's now at almost \$13 million bucks."

He said that something has to be done to get the university operating in the black.

"We've got to get that piece right because it's continuing to erode, and it's continuing to have a negative impact on our overall operations," he said.

Eaton said he and Warrick agreed on a plan to deal with this year's shortfall.

One of the things they decided to do immediately is spend only in areas where the univer-

See SCSU, A3

PONTIFF ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION



In this photo provided by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano, Pope Benedict XVI reads a document in Latin where he announces his resignation, during a meeting of Vatican cardinals, at the Vatican. Benedict XVI announced Monday that he would resign Feb. 28 - the first pontiff to do so in nearly 600 years. The decision sets the stage for a conclave to elect a new pope before the end of March. Find an interactive, photos and more on Pope Benedict in our Hot Topics at TheTandD.com

Pope's bombshell sends troubled church scrambling

By NICOLE WINFIELD
and VICTOR L. SIMPSON
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — With a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope has done in more than half a millennium, stunning the world by announcing his resignation Monday and leaving the already troubled Catholic Church to replace the leader of its 1 billion followers by Easter.

Not even his closest associates had advance word of the news, a bombshell that he dropped during a routine morning meeting of Vatican cardinals. And with no clear favorites to succeed him,

"Without doubt this is a historic moment," said Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, a protégé and former theology student of Benedict's who is considered a papal contender. "Right now, 1.2 billion Catholics the world over are holding their breath."

The move allows for a fast-track conclave to elect a new pope, since the traditional nine days of mourning that would follow a pope's death doesn't have to be observed. It also gives the 85-year-old Benedict great sway over the choice of his successor. Though he will not himself vote, he has hand-picked the bulk of the College of Cardinals — the princes of the church who will elect his successor — to guarantee his conservative legacy and

Woman accused of stealing from mom's debit card

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

Police claim an Orangeburg woman went on a month-long, \$12,900 shopping spree with a her mother's debit card.

Crystal Shears, 26, of 401 Whaley Street, was charged with seven counts of financial transaction card fraud last week after a six-week investigation.

Orangeburg City Judge Barney Houser set bond on Shears at \$14,000 personal recognizance.

Shears' mother said she was away from her Orangeburg home for about a month while her husband was hospitalized. She discovered she was missing a debit card around the middle of December, after her husband was released.

The last time she remembered seeing the debit card was in October.

Police say the missing card had been used during the victim's absence at multiple shoe stores, department stores, boutique and at least one clothing store.

Shears' mother said her daughter may have learned the card's PIN number when they visited a store together.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety investigators say they spent the last month gathering surveillance video of the subject at the businesses and ATM machines making the transactions.

The transactions ranged in value from as little as \$6 spent at a body lotion shop to a pair of \$800 ATM withdrawals made in the same day. An estimated \$7,000 was withdrawn using ATM machines.

Contact the writer: rwalker@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5550.



Shears

Orangeburg native seeks chairmanship of S.C. Democrats

By LEE HENDREN
T&D Government Writer

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