

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 7/17/2014 9:41:10 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, July 17, 2014

SC Front Pages – Thursday, July 17, 2014



CLEMSON, 1C STOUDT HAS 'STREET CRED'



LIFESTYLE, 1D Quilters pour love into giving

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

THURSDAY,
JULY 17, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY TIME WARNER REBUFS TAKEOVER OFFER PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

\$11M to aid Upstate medical research



Naren Vyavahare, principal investigator, right, and Jeoung Soo Lee, a Clemson University junior faculty member, discuss tissue research at the Rhodes Engineering Research Center in Clemson. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

Much of work will be done at Patewood site in Greenville

By Liv Osby
Staff Writer
losby@greenvillenews.com

In a lab at Clemson University, scientists are researching how to grow human tissues they hope will one day become treatments for a variety of conditions that plague humankind.

One studies a jar of heart tissue, while others are hunkered over their microscopes and transferring liquids.

An \$11 million grant from the National Institutes of Health announced Wednesday — the largest NIH grant in the school's

history — will help grow that research.

The project also is expected to help foster the state's medical technology industry, officials say.

And CUBEInc — the Clemson University Biomedical Engineering Campus at Greenville Health System's Patewood Medical Campus — will be where much of the work is conducted.

"The high-impact medical technology they are developing could lead to therapies and cures that help patients around the world," said Anand Gramopadhye, dean of the College of Engineering and Science.

"And having the research in Greenville means that it could help create high-paying jobs here in South Carolina."

See RESEARCH, Page 4A

"We can help faculty stay focused on critical, real-world health care needs and improving patient care..."

DR. EUGENE LANGAN,
a program mentor

Salee gets new legs, prepares to go home

Iraqi teen fitted at Shriners, able to walk without pain

By Liv Osby
Staff Writer
losby@greenvillenews.com

Salee Allawe tried out her new prosthetic legs for the first time Wednesday, giggling as she walked and gaining more confidence with every step.

The Iraqi 16-year-old lost her own legs in an airstrike in 2006, according to the group who brought her to Greenville for treatment at Shriners Hospital for Children. She had outgrown her old prosthetics, which were three years old, far too tight and well worn.

The new legs, which are adorned with a blue and yellow butterfly, let her walk without pain for the first time in many months.

"Legs are nice. No hurt," Salee told Ed Skewes, the prosthetist who crafted the new legs for her. "Thank you, Dr. Ed. Good job!"

The new legs sport tennis shoes in bright yellow — Salee's favorite color — which Skewes got especially for the girl he's come to admire over the years of treating her.

"She's an incredible inspiration," he said. "Anybody who meets this young lady sees her spirit and that smile. She's like a magnet drawing people around her. And I think that's why you've seen such interest in our community and around the world."

"People fall in love with her and want to help her."

See SALEE, Page 4A



Salee Allawe tries walking with her new prosthetic legs with the help of prosthetist Ed Skewes as her father, Hussein, center, watches at Shriners Hospital for Children on Wednesday. HEIDI HELBRUN/STAFF

Ad claims SC left children in danger

Senator likely to talk with former staff attorney

By Tim Smith
Columbia bureau

COLUMBIA — The chairman of a Senate panel examining South Carolina's child welfare agency says his panel likely will seek to talk with a former staff attorney for the agency who is claiming in a Democratic ad that she left because the agency was "leaving children in dangerous situa-

tions."

Betsy Burton was identified in the television ad by the Democratic Governors Association as a former staff attorney for the state Department of Social Services and a child advocate since 1977.

"I resigned from DSS because we actually were leaving children in dangerous situations to make the numbers look better," Burton says in the ad. "That really disturbed my conscience and I did not wish to be a part of that."

She also accuses Gov. Nikki Haley

in the ad of caring more about her political career than children, which the governor's campaign denied.

Burton didn't say in the ad when she left the state Department of Social Services or elaborate on her accusations. She couldn't be reached Wednesday by The Greenville News for comment.

According to the State Ethics Commission, a Betsy Burton donated \$50 in April to the gubernatorial campaign of Sen. Vincent Sheheen, a Cam-

See CHILDREN, Page 4A

CHARLESTONSCENE

Latest 'Apes' film swings into theaters with 4-star review

PAGE 9



Casino boat stuck off Savannah

SOUTH, B1



The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

THURSDAY, July 17, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

Immigration rumors spurring S.C. protests

Upstate plans weekend rallies, but officials say there are no secret transfers



CITY GANNETT/THE SAVANNAH NEWS

People protesting the housing of detained immigrant children at Wolverine Center in Vassar, Mich., walk Monday from Vassar City Hall to the facility. The crisis on the nation's southern border has sparked protests across the country, including in South Carolina.

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
croltan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Rumors of undocumented immigrants secretly being transported to South Carolina have triggered a series of protests that will take place this weekend statewide. Federal and state officials say there is no indication that undocumented immigrants are being flown or transported by bus to the Palmetto State, in the wake of the immigration crisis on the nation's southern border.

But one of the protests being assembled in Greenville for Saturday will take place at the location where it is believed undocumented men are being dropped off, said William Gheen, president of American for Legal Immigration PWC, a national organization based in North Carolina.

"We're hearing that this is a problem in Greenville, South Carolina, and that we know that the invasion buses and planes are rolling all across the country right now," Gheen said. "Obama is

Please see IMMIGRANTS, Page A5



DETAINED CHILDREN SLEEP LAST MONTH IN A HOLDING CELL AT A U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PROCESSING FACILITY IN BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS.



Poll Should South Carolina be sheltering undocumented immigrants during the crisis at the border? Find this story at palmetto.politics.com to vote.

Inside

Immigration advocate Jose Antonio Vargas detained, released. A5

Dems fight changes to border law

BY JIM KUHNHENN
and ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic opposition increased Wednesday to legal changes that would speed removals of young Central American migrants, jeopardizing President Barack Obama's call for \$3.7 billion in emergency border spending to deal with the remarkable surge of unaccompanied youths at the South Texas border.

Republicans insist they won't agree to the spending without accompanying changes to a 2008 law that gives unaccompanied minors arriving

Please see POLITICS, Page A5

Nowhere to hide for tax cheats

Charleston County hires firm to search

BY DAVID SLADE
dslade@postandcourier.com

Charleston County has hired a data-mining company to find people who are improperly benefiting from property tax breaks reserved for owner-occupied homes, with hefty penalties awaiting those who are caught.

Rental properties and other homes collectively worth hundreds of millions of dollars are believed to be under-taxed because the owners falsely claim to reside there.

The financial stakes are high because South Carolina property tax bills roughly triple when a home is not owner-occupied. And only one property can be claimed as a residence for property tax purposes.

Those caught claiming the tax break improperly in Charleston County will owe up to three years of back taxes at the higher rate, plus interest, and forfeit the property tax they previously paid as a penalty.

"If this works out right, there will be a surge in revenue," said Keith Buttrass, Charleston County's chief financial officer. "Some of that should be permanent."

The surge would come from potentially millions of dollars in back taxes, and taxing the properties correctly would mean additional revenue for local governments every year. More revenue should mean less pressure to raise tax rates.

Tax Management Associates, of Charlotte, will check the more than 85,000 owner-occupied homes in Charleston County against nationwide data, through a partnership with LexisNexis. The company will work with the county to identify which leads to pursue, and TMA will be paid 30 percent of any back-taxes collected.

Please see TAX, Page A4



Poll What do you think about the penalties that are supposed to be levied against property owners who have been getting improper tax breaks? Find this story at postandcourier.com to vote.



Read more For past coverage of the case, go to postandcourier.com/DenzelCurnell.
Audio To hear the 911 call, go to postandcourier.com/audio.

911 calls in teen's death echo tension, emotions

NAACP cited community's reaction in weighing call for racial profiling investigation

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

Soon after police said Denzell Curnell shot himself, two women called 911 to complain that two paramedics were tending to the 19-year-old.

But by then, the authorities said Curnell already had died after a gunshot rang out June 29 during his struggle with a Charleston police officer outside

the Bridgeview Village apartments. The recordings were released Wednesday afternoon in response to repeated Freedom of Information Act requests from The Post and Courier. The tapes depict the high tension that officers already were facing that night in the neighborhood historically fraught with violence and drugs. The first caller gave an account that investigators said they later disproved through forensic evidence.

"Somebody's baby just got shot out here by one of these police officers," she said. "There's 9,000 officers out here, but there's no paramedics or nobody out here. This don't make no sense."

Despite rulings Monday that cleared Officer Jamal Medlin of criminal wrongdoing and called the shooting a suicide, the high emotions in the recordings have

Please see NAACP, Page A4



Curnell

If you go

WHAT: NAACP meeting
WHEN: 6:30 p.m., July 24
WHERE: Fellowship hall of Morris Brown AME Church at 13 Morris St. in downtown Charleston



Partly sunny
High 98, Low 68.
Complete 5-day
forecast. B8

Bridge.....E25
Business.....B2
Classifieds.....D1
Comics.....J26-29

Crosswords.....D4, E27
Editorials.....A10
Local news.....A2
Movies.....E11

Obituaries.....B4
Sports.....C1
Television.....E30
The South.....B1

Charleston Deals today

The Crescent Olive
Pay \$10 to spend \$20 at The Crescent Olive.
See A2

COLISEUM MOMENTS

From Reagan to Elvis . . . what we'll remember about the Carolina Coliseum. **IN LIFE&STYLE, D1**



SPURRIER FILM: ESPN-SEC documentary to profile iconic USC coach. **C1**

The State

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

EXCLUSIVE

Jail beating to cost Richland \$750,000

County settles suit with homeless man

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

Richland County will pay \$750,000 to settle a lawsuit for the brutal beating of a homeless mentally ill inmate at the county jail.

The beating left Robert Sweeper III with a punctured lung, broken ribs and broken vertebrae after the February 2012 incident at the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. Guards left him in his cell near death for five days before medics were summoned to take him to a hospital emergency room. One guard was sentenced to prison and six others were fired.

The settlement is more than twice the amount of a state-mandated cap of \$300,000 that a county could pay out if it were to lose a jury trial. But Richland County officials decided to pay the higher amount, a council member said, because they feared the lawsuit could be moved to federal court.

SEE BEATING SUIT PAGE A5

Drug deal gone bad blamed for kidnapping

Mexican group was running marijuana, cocaine into the Carolinas, FBI says

By RACHAEL MYERS
LOWE
and HARRISON CAHILL
rcahill@thestate.com
hcahill@thestate.com

Wednesday morning, Luis Castro-Villeda, 22, Ruben Ceja-Rangel, 57, and Juan Manuel Fuentes-Morales, 26, are accused of grabbing the victim from his truck as he drove to pick up a friend for work.

The kidnapping of a Calhoun County man stemmed from a drug deal gone bad involving a Mexican group that operates in the Carolinas, a court was told Wednesday.

Three men charged with kidnapping a 23-year-old St. Matthews man appeared in federal court in Raleigh, on

All three were charged with conspiracy to kidnap, abduct, carry away and hold a person for ransom, according to court documents. The three, being held without bail, face extradition to South Car-

SEE DRUG PAGE A5

SO (NOT) SUMMER SCHOOL

PADDLEBOARDING MAKING A SPLASH



Campers at Steve Fisher's standup paddleboard camp on Lake Murray head along the shoreline after launching from Lake Murray Sailing Club near Chapin.

By SARAH ELLIS
sellis@thestate.com

ages 8-13, lined up with multi-colored boards and life jackets on the shore at the Lake Mur-

SO (NOT) SUMMER SCHOOL



Storm-drain pipes line the Grand Strand beaches, but the water coming from the pipes and swashes can contain harmful bacteria.

Sheheen: S.C. must fight beach bacterial pollution

By SAMMY FRETWELL
sfretwell@thestate.com

Democratic candidate for governor Vincent Sheheen called Wednesday for the state to spend millions to remove bacteria-filled stormwater pipes from the beaches that anchor South Carolina's tourism economy.

In the Myrtle Beach area on a campaign stop, Sheheen said he favors

spending \$10 million to \$20 million in state money to get rid of pipes along the Grand Strand so that vacationers aren't exposed to contaminated runoff.

If elected governor, Sheheen said he will make removing the drainage pipes and improving water quality in the Myrtle Beach area a priority.

SEE BEACH PAGE A5

The Jam begins

First night recap | 1B

Peach Jam schedule | 4B

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867



THURSDAY, July 17, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 198 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

'Growing as a father'



STAFF PHOTO BY DERREK ASBERRY

Carol Johnson said she is ready to take on the challenges that come with her new position as president and chief executive officer of SRNS.

Johnson ready for challenges at SRNS

BY DERREK ASBERRY
daberry@aikenstandard.com

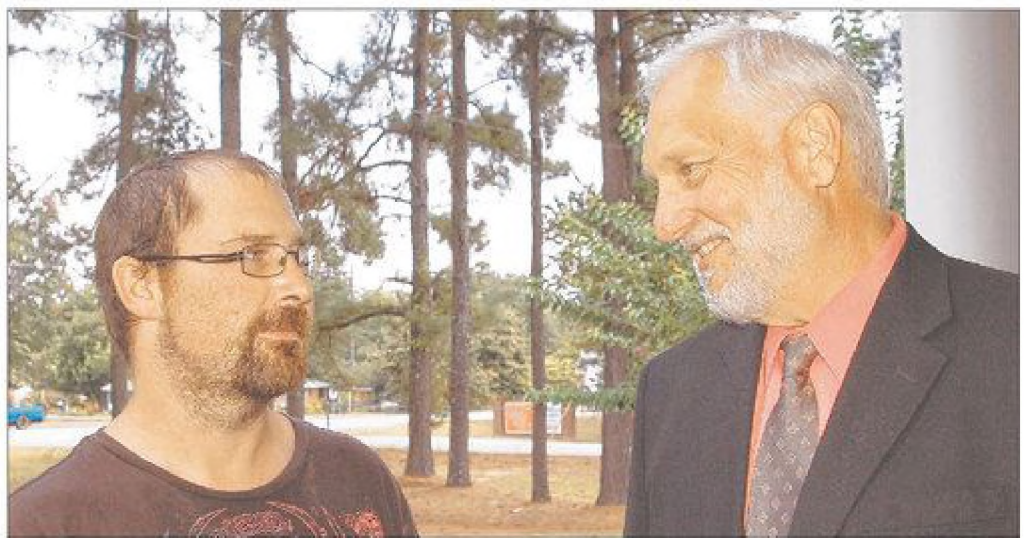
Carol Johnson was retired for all of four months before she got a call from Fluor Corporation asking her to become president and chief executive officer of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, the Savannah River Site's management and operating contractor.

A chemistry graduate of Marshall University, Johnson accepted the position in May after former president Dwayne Wilson stepped down to take another job within Fluor Corporation.

With her new role, Johnson said two of her main goals are making SRNS operations as high quality as possible and visibly promoting the Savannah River National Lab.

She also shared several challenges she is anticipating, which are meeting demands with aging infrastructure and filling the positions left behind by retiring employees.

Please see SRNS, Page 5A.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Participants in the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition's local office included client Jacob Pou, left, and the organization's local program specialist, Mike Croft.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Job Developer Darrell Payne, left, and Program Specialist Mike Croft are local staff members at the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition's local office on Columbia Highway North.

Midlands Fatherhood Coalition is now open

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

The Midlands Fatherhood Coalition's new office on Columbia Highway North is providing the assistance that Jacob Pou needed.

"I didn't know what to do; I was lost," said the 37-year-old Graniteville resident, who was one of the speakers during the office's grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony Wednesday.

Pou is the father of 14-year-old twins.

"I've been out of work for a while, and I literally started selling everything that I had so that I could pay child support," he said. "I own nothing really now, except for my clothes. I was getting to the point that I was about ready to give up—not on life, but because I was out there looking for a job and I couldn't find anything."

Pou attended his first Fatherhood Coalition peer support group meeting last week, and it's given him hope.

"I learned a lot in that session," Pou said. "I left with ideas that I had never thought of, about how to handle situations that come up."

Please see FATHERS, Page 5A.

INSIDE TODAY

One dead after
Whiskey Road collision
Local News, 2A

AREA DEATHS

Barbara Woodward Britt,
Warrenville
Bishop James Keith Randall Sr.,
Aiken
Edward M. Labine Sr., Wagener
James "Dick" Richard Everard,
Freeburg, Ill.
Otis Miles Jr., Ridge Spring
Terri Elizabeth Shelton, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Mom accused of leaving child at park sparks national debate

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

The case of a North Augusta woman arrested after leaving her daughter at a park while she went to work is sparking discussion across South Carolina—and even the rest of the country.



Debra Lynn Harrell, 46, of Weston Street, is accused of leaving her 9-year-old child on a

at a nearby McDonald's.

The incident happened June 30, but in the past week, media outlets around the country have picked up on the story. In addition to local and state outlets, national outlets have picked up on it, as well, including *New York* magazine.

The case was even discussed Wednesday afternoon on Fox News' "The Five." A Google search of Harrell's name returns dozens of blogs and websites where the case is being discussed, with many people taking sides over whether or not Harrell should have been arrested.

1. Tim Thornton, a spokesman for

interest" in the case, which has been turned over to the Second Circuit Solicitor's Office.

"Therefore, the North Augusta Department of Public Safety cannot make any further comments regarding this case," he said, directing requests and comments to the Solicitor's Office. "Our agency does not want the case tried in the news media, but rather a court of law."

Deputy Solicitor David Miller declined to comment on the case, citing laws that prohibit prosecutors from making "extra-judicial" comments about a case. He said the investigation

News editor talks case on radio

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Aiken Standard News Editor Haley Hughes appeared on Southern California Public Radio 89.3 KPCC on Wednesday to discuss the case of a North Augusta woman accused of leaving her child at a park while she went to work.

Hughes went on KPCC's "Air Talk" with Larry Mantle to talk about the case of Debra Harrell, who was arrested by North Augusta Public Safety and charged with unlawful conduct toward a child. A podcast of the segment is available at <http://n.p.r/tw/7Edu>.

In addition to syndicated shows from National Public Radio, KPCC



Peach Festival

Gaffney gets ready to celebrate. escape

Herald-Journal

THURSDAY

JULY 17, 2014
SPARTANBURG, S.C.
50 cents

www.GoUpstate.com

HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Teaching leadership

Converse College held a four-day conference this week to teach prospective students—including Maura Walker, 16, of Duncan, above—that they can become leaders and make positive changes in their communities. **PAGE C1**

Humanitarian pause

Israel agreed to a five-hour "humanitarian" pause in its 9-day-old bombardment of Gaza that has killed more than 200 Palestinians, including four boys struck on a beach Wednesday by shells fired from a navy ship. **PAGE A3**

Casino boat woes

After 16 hours stuck at sea, passengers stranded on a casino boat that ran aground off Georgia's coast were ferried to shore Wednesday aboard two Coast Guard cutters. **PAGE A5**

Blow to FOI

The South Carolina Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that autopsy reports are not public records, dealing another blow to traditional practices under the state's Freedom of Information law. **PAGE C1**

Local food boom

Once a niche business, locally grown foods aren't just for farmers markets anymore. A growing network of companies and organizations is delivering food directly from local farms to major institutions. **PAGE C4**

Weather

US, allies get tough on Russia

New sanctions for supporting rebels in Ukraine will hit major firms, institutions

By JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Struggling to defuse the persistent crisis in Ukraine, both the U.S. and European Union imposed new economic sanctions on Russia Wednesday, with President Barack Obama declaring that Russian leaders must see that their actions supporting rebels "have consequences."

Though the American and European sanctions were coordinated, they nonetheless exposed fissures in what the West has tried to project

as a united front in its months-long effort to isolate Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin, sounding unperturbed, said the U.S. was only hurting itself.

The penalties announced by the White House were broad in scope, targeting two major Russian energy firms, a pair of powerful financial institutions, eight arms firms and four individuals. Leaders in Europe, which has a far deeper economic relationship with Russia than the U.S., were

more restrained, ordering investment and development banks on the continent to suspend financing agreements with Moscow.

Even the U.S. penalties stopped short of the most stringent actions the West has threatened, which would entail fully cutting off key sectors of Russia's economy. But officials said those steps were still on the table if Russia fails to abide by the West's demands to stop support for pro-Russian insurgents who have destabilized swaths of eastern Ukraine.

"What we are expecting is that the Russian leadership will see once again that its actions in Ukraine have consequences,

including a weakening Russian economy and increasing diplomatic isolation," Obama said as he announced the U.S. penalties from the White House.

Publicly undismayed, Putin said the new sanctions run counter to U.S. national interests because they put American companies that want to operate in Russia at a competitive disadvantage.

At a news conference in Brazil, Putin said through a translator: "They are undermining the positions of their energy companies. They made one mistake, and now they insist on making another one."

◆ SEE RUSSIA PAGE A8

Jerusalem Project in Cherokee County



Faith Hammett, 22, of Gaffney, paints a house as part of the Jerusalem Project, which found Cherokee County teenagers and adults tackling various home improvement projects such as new roofs, siding and wheelchair ramps. Organizers say the all-volunteer, weeklong Christian ministry effort is aimed at helping those who wouldn't otherwise be able to help themselves. See more photos at GoUpstate.com.

Hundreds putting faith into action, helping neighbors fix up their homes

INDEX-JOURNAL

Vol. 96, No. 52

www.indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Sam Montgomery found not guilty

Officer remains under investigation

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

Greenwood-bred NFL football player Sam Montgomery was exonerated Wednesday morning of a speeding ticket that led to his arrest late last month.

The ruling came during a hearing inside the Central Traffic Court building in Laurens. Montgomery was not present for the proceedings, but Magistrate Judge Paul Lyles accepted a not-guilty plea from his attorney, State Highway Patrol Lance

Cpl. R.S. Salter was not present in the courtroom either.

Salter was the trooper who stopped the Cincinnati Bengals defensive end traveling along S.C. Highway 72 early the morning of June 25 and arrested him. South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials announced the officer was suspended without pay less than 48 hours after the traffic stop, pending the outcome of an internal investigation.

DPS spokespeople said the investigation centers on Salter's June 25 encounter with Montgomery. SCHP

officials said during the trial that part of Salter's suspension precluded him from prosecuting cases, including those for which he'd issued traffic tickets.

State attorneys from the Public Safety office beckoned the judge to continue the hearing to Aug. 25, testifying that Salter's investigation would likely be resolved by then. When Lyles rejected their motion to push the court date back, prosecutors testified they were not ready to present a case in the matter. The judge consequently decided in the defense's favor, ruling Montgomery not guilty.

Montgomery's case was one of three the judge heard Wednesday

morning, finding the defendants not guilty in all three cases on the same grounds. During one of the hearings, Lyles told prosecutors they had enough time to make alternate arrangements in the wake of Salter's suspension.

Laurens attorney Jim C. Todd, who represented Montgomery during the hearing, pounced on the chance for victory, arguing that the charge against the former Louisiana State University standout should be dis-

missed because Salter was not available to present a case.

"There's been ample time, 20-plus days," Todd said. "We've all just been kind of in a guessing game and just showed up like any other individual would to plead this ticket. Obviously, officer Salter is not here to prosecute this ticket, and it sounds to me that there's an open-ended contract as to if and when he will come back."

According to a preliminary report from the Highway Patrol, Salter clocked Montgomery driving 89 mph in a 55 mph zone 3 miles west of Clinton.

See MONTGOMERY, page 4A



SAM MONTGOMERY



Summer Days

ABOVE: Kids roughhouse inside the Greenwood YMCA gymnasium during day camp Wednesday afternoon. AT

RIGHT: A pair of bicyclers ride through Uptown Greenwood late Wednesday afternoon.

PHOTOS BY MADDY JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL



■ SALUDA

Penny tax under fire

Council, residents unsure about 1 percent sales tax

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

What began as an effort to upgrade Saluda County's infrastructure through a capital projects sales tax could be dead in the water.

At the regular meeting of the Saluda County Council on Monday, several residents derided the proposed 1 percent sales tax. The tax — commonly referred to as a penny tax — would go toward specific infrastructure projects.

Some residents were opposed to the capital project sales tax on principle. Jack Atkinson said he believes the referendum to be unconstitutional under South Carolina's constitution.

"We citizens have ratified our State Constitution, and by doing so have delegated certain powers to representatives we elect," Atkinson said from a prepared statement. "If a decision is made by 25 percent of registered voters, which in Saluda County would be approximately 12.5 percent of the population, how is that more democratic than a decision made by 100 percent of the registered voters' elected representatives?"

Five residents spoke at the public hearing for Ordinance 09-14. The ordinance formalizes the projects chosen by the capital projects sales tax commission into a ballot question for a referendum by the voters. A third and final

reading is required.

Other residents voiced similar concerns that several County Council members voiced in previous readings of the ordinance. Council members Gwendolyn Shealy, Jacob Schumpert and Frank Daniel all expressed concern about the narrow focus of the projects.

Resident Charlie Daniel, distantly related to councilman Frank Daniel, said the proposed projects are racially disparate.

"You look at where those water lines and other projects are going and they're in the white areas," Charlie Daniel said. "They want us to pay for these projects with the tax but not benefit from them."

Charlie Daniel said his opposition to the capital projects sales tax could change if other projects were added or the proposed projects amended.

"I think you need to bring in the entire community for these things," he said. "If we got the black community involved, I'd study it again. But right now the water and sewer is going to the white community. That's the way the system works."

But councilman Jacob Schumpert said the tax could be too far gone for him to support.

"I'm really not sure at this point in time (what I want to do)," Schumpert said. "I'm going to do what the people want. Most of them were just strictly against it."

As to amending the projects to gain increased support, Schumpert said County Council should vote up or

See TAX, page 4A

SC Supreme Court: Autopsy reports are not public



District welcomes all-day preschool

All elementary schools in Sumter public schools will offer classes A2

Justices: Autopsy reports not public

Ruling limits breadth of state's Freedom of Information Act

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

bmarshant@theitem.com
(803) 774-1272

With a ruling posted to its website Wednesday morning, the S.C. Supreme Court limited the scope of the state's Freedom of Information Act, a decision that advocates of open government fear will make it more difficult for the public to check the actions of government agencies and elected officials.

In a case initiated by *The Sumter Item* in response to a police-involved shooting, four of the court's five justices ruled that autopsy reports compiled by a county coroner's office as part of a law-enforcement investigation are private medical records and are exempt from public disclosure under FOIA.

Justice Kaye Hearn ruled the state's highest court is "compelled here by the plain meaning of the statutory term to conclude that an autopsy report is exempt from the FOIA's disclosure requirement." Hearn was joined in her opinion by Chief Justice Jean Toal and associate justices Donald Beatty and John Kittredge.

This week's ruling concludes nearly four years of wrangling over the autopsy of Aaron Jacobs, a 25-year-old man shot and killed in a confrontation with Sumter police officers on Sept. 28, 2010. Two officers approached Jacobs, who was walking on Patriot Parkway, while searching for a suspect in a carjacking, a meeting that ended in Jacobs' death. A different man was later arrested for the carjacking.

Sumter Item reporter Joe Perry requested a copy of Jacobs' autopsy to determine the circumstances of Jacobs' death. Sumter County Coroner Harvin Bullock refused, saying the report was a private medical record. Osteon Publishing Co., publisher of *The Sumter Item*, brought suit to force the release of the information under FOIA, the state law requiring government records and documents be made available to the public.

Jay Bender, an attorney for the S.C. Press Association, argued *The Sumter Item*'s case at a Feb. 5 hearing in front of the court. He thinks the court majority created an overly broad definition of "medical record" in its ruling.

SEE COURT RULING, PAGE A3

Overpass will close for more than year

Mayor: Lafayette bridge replacement unavoidable

BY ROB COTTINGHAM

rcottingham@theitem.com
(803) 774-1225

Folks who frequently use the southern portion of Lafayette Drive will soon have to plan an alternate route for passing

through downtown Sumter.

According to a news release published by the S.C. Department of Transportation on Tuesday, the bridge on South Lafayette Drive will be closed for longer than a year, beginning in August.

Officials have set the date of clos-

ing to Aug. 11, and the bridge will remain inaccessible for 64 weeks while department employees work to replace the structure. It is set to reopen to traffic on Nov. 2, 2015, barring any unexpected delays.

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE A8

Fire truck company plans expansion



ZOEY MILLER / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

An employee of Fire Equipment Services shapes a chrome covering for a fire truck at the company's facility on Stamey Livestock Road. The manufacturer recently got approval for a future expansion at the site that could boost its production and add to its workforce.

Vote for business request could mean more local jobs

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

bmarshant@theitem.com
(803) 774-1272

A zoning change could be the first step to a significant business expansion.

By approving a business request Tuesday, Sumter City Council paved the way for a new 50,000-square-foot manufacturing facility on the Stamey Livestock Road site of Fire Equipment Services.

Council gave its consent to the

company's planned development site, allowing the maker of fire department equipment to greatly expand the capacity of its Sumter operations, allowing the company to build more fire trucks and add more employees to do it.

It would be the biggest change to the former G&G Metal Fabrication since it was acquired by Greenville-based Safe Industries at the end of last year. The company manufactures fire trucks along with other equipment for firehouses across South Carolina.

The company hopes to build a

new structure that would house 12 "build bays" as well as space for a new conference center.

"This will help us take it to the next level," said Randy Porter, vice president. "Whether we can do it all at once, I don't know, but that's the plan."

The company currently has two 7,500-square-foot manufacturing spaces inside its building off Broad Street Extension, but the 125-foot-wide by 400-foot-long building will offer the company

SEE EXPANSION, PAGE A3



BACK FOR MORE

Stoudt, Tigers set to host SC State for second season in a row. C1

SMOOTH SAILIN': Officials offer boating safety tips for fun on the water. **B1**
NOWHERE TO GO: Few options for Gaza civilians urged to evacuate. **D1**

High praise, no raise for Moulder

Administrator, county council mutually agree to no pay increase

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County Council offered rave reviews to administrator Scott Moulder upon completing his annual assessment Tuesday night, but a pay raise did not accompany the kudos.

After nearly two hours in executive session at the scheduled meeting, council chair Joel Thrift addressed the "personnel

matter" members discussed behind closed doors.

As The Journal reported Tuesday, the personnel matter in question was Moulder's annual review.

"I'm happy to announce that he exceeds our expectations," Thrift said. "He has done a great job. We're very appreciative of the job he and his staff have done."

Moulder said he is "very pleased" with his evaluation

and that Thrift met with him Wednesday to provide more feedback from council on his performance.

"I'm very pleased with the feedback I received from the council and look forward to many more years of serving them and the public," Moulder said.

Moulder is in the second year of a three-year deal that was unanimously approved in May 2013.

At that time, Thrift indicated Moulder would be eligible for salary increases during evalua-



Moulder

SEE MOULDER, PAGE A6

'I'm happy to announce that he exceeds our expectations. ... We're very appreciative of the job he and his staff have done.'

Joel Thrift
Oconee County Council chairman

Oconee KKK activity shocks NAACP official

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — News this week that a Ku Klux Klan group dropped off an undetermined number of plastic bags with candy and recruitment flyers in parts of Oconee County while people slept over the weekend is causing a stir throughout the Upstate.

A spokesman for the KKK sect Loyal White Knights told a local TV news network Klan chapters across the country distributed the literature and candy during their "national night ride." Klansman Robert Jones said the group holds the recruitment event three times a year.

Beverly Jenkins, president of the Oconee County chapter of the NAACP, said Wednesday she was "shocked" upon learning of the news. Jenkins said this is a first for her in almost 40 years living in the county.

"It's something new as far as I'm concerned, because I haven't seen a thing like that here," Jenkins said.

For Jenkins, and many of the approximately 15,000 baby boomers living in Oconee who witnessed the racial turmoil of the 1960s, the KKK conjures some of the worst memories of the past. She expects the local chapter of the NAACP will likely take up the Klan incident when it meets again.

Seneca mayor Dan Alexander said to his knowledge, the Klan candy

the power of collaboration

Clemson gets \$11M grant for health research

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Clemson University officials announced Wednesday that the school has received its biggest grant ever from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The \$11 million grant will go toward bioengineering faculty research of lab-grown tissues. University researchers are exploring whether the tissues can treat debilitating diseases, from heart disease to spinal cord injuries.

Clemson is using the grant money in collaboration with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), with which the university shares a joint bioengineering program.

"Our faculty members understand and appreciate the power of collaboration," Clemson



Clemson University Ph.D. student Nasim Nosoudi, left, and professor Naren Vyavahare, Hunter endowed chair of bioengineering at the university, work in the laboratory on Wednesday.

SEE GRANT, PAGE A5

JESSICA NEWS | THE JOURNAL

SEE KKK, PAGE A5

Westminster council gives OK to tourism initiative

'While these are all really good and worthy projects, at the end of the day it ends up with us kind of being

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — Westminster city council

Visitors Bureau, went before the council with a SCGO action plan, which he



three largest municipalities in the county — Seneca, Walhalla and Westminster — and the towns of West Union and Salem

The initiative includes resource meetings between the state and county, countywide development like design standards for

Bank Fraud

First Reliance Bank to present
a seminar on Bank Fraud

July 17, 2014 at 2:00pm

The Carolinian 718 S. Dargan Street
Florence, SC | 843-665-9314

Morning News

THURSDAY JULY 17, 2014

TODAY'S
WEATHER

Partly sunny
and less humid.
High 88, low 68.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

FMU to start center to improve readiness

CHE grant provides \$1.75M in 7 years to help students, teachers understand expectations of higher education

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
emed@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Francis Marion

University will be establishing a new Center of Excellence for College and Career Readiness this year, using grant funding from the Commission on Higher Education.

The center, which will be one of 14 active Centers of Excellence around the state, will be tasked with training teachers to better

INSIDE

To read about FMU's grant to help veterans earn their BSN, see Page 3A.

prepare students for higher education, coordinating the South Carolina Course Alignment Project and creating a new Eighth

Grade Academy to be housed at FMU each summer.

The seven-year grant is for \$250,000 annually and will fund staff for the center, training and travel expenses for teachers, research and data analysis and the summer camp.

See READY, Page 3A

Latta recreation director resigns

Sellers had a suspended license when hired by mayor

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@florencenews.com

LATTA — Latta Parks and Recreation Director Vontray Sellers tendered his resignation Wednesday soon after town officials learned his driver's license has been suspended since July 3.

"We learned of the driving suspension. It was discussed among council," Latta Town Councilman Jarrett Taylor said. "He could not fulfill the obligations listed for the position, which requires a driver's license and a good driving record. So we gave Vontray a choice, and he chose to resign."

According to S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles records, Sellers' driver's license was suspended July 3 and will be suspended until October.

Latta police arrested Sellers on Feb. 20 and charged him with driving under suspension after a town resident informed town Police Chief Crystal Moore that Sellers was driving a town vehicle on a suspended driver's license.

Moore followed up on the report and found that Sellers' driver's license had been suspended after he was charged with reckless driving in Dillon in June 2013, three months before he was hired by Mayor Earl Bullard to serve as the town's parks/rec director.

That suspension began in November and was still in place when he was charged by Latta police in February.

Some residents believe Moore's investigation into Sellers' driving record was one of the primary reasons Bullard fired her April 15. During her investigation, Moore discovered the mayor neglected to conduct a back-



PHOTOS BY GAVIN JACKSON/MORNING NEWS



ABOVE: Wofford operates a 90-foot excavator to bring the concrete and steel structure down in a controlled manner. RIGHT: The Trust building on June 25.

Progress continues on the demolition of Trust building on Wednesday. Jason Wofford of Wofford Demolition and Renovation Specialist expects the building to be down by the end of the weekend or Tuesday, barring any issues.



Final dolphin ruling likely months away for Nichols man



Odd



THE LITTLE MERMAID

Junior Orangeburg
Part-Time Players present
Disney classic this weekend
at the BlueBird Theater. **A8**

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS ★ ORANGEBURG, S.C. ★ 4 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES ★ VOL. 133 ★ NO. 198

100

OBJECTS
IN 100 DAYS

DAY 32

A2 and
TheTandD.com

Feds: Hostage takers sought payment for pot

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

Federal authorities claim a St. Matthews man rescued Tuesday from kidnappers in North Carolina owed Mexican drug dealers \$200,000.

The 23-year-old man was taken hostage last week after he allegedly failed to pay for the 200 pounds of marijuana he received several months before, according to an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court in support of an arrest warrant.

Luis Castro-Villeda, 22, Ruben Ceja-Rangel, 27, and Juan Manuel Fuentes-Morales, 26, have all been charged with conspiracy to kidnap, abduct, carry away and hold a person for ransom, according to the affidavit.

Authorities claim the three are hostage takers for a Mexican drug trafficking organization. They appeared in federal court in North Carolina on Wednesday and will be brought to South Carolina to face prosecution.

The investigation is ongoing and more

charges could be filed, Assistant U.S. Attorney Beth Drake said.

The St. Matthews man, whose name continues to be withheld by law enforcement due to safety concerns, is said to be in stable condition and has been released back to his family.

After an investigation involving the work of hundreds of agents, the FBI raided five North Carolina locations Tuesday morning. They located the St.



Luis Castro-Villeda



Ruben Ceja-Rangel



Juan Manuel Fuentes-Morales

See KIDNAP A3

SAFE FROM THE BLAZE



Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Lt. Paul Leedecke begins the cleanup process at the scene of a residential fire on Nance Street as homeowner Larry Harrison and a neighbor inspect the damage. See video from the scene at TheTandD.com.

Teen helps children escape from Nance Street house fire

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Larry Harrison arrived at his smoldering home at 848 Nance St. at about 3 p.m. Wednesday.

The truck driver was making a delivery when he received a call from his daughter in Charlotte, North Carolina, that his house was on fire and that firefighters were on the scene.

Four of Harrison's grandchildren were alone in the house when the fire broke out — three grandsons ages 14, 11 and 10, and a granddaughter age 10.

the kids were playing on the bed and must have hit one of the cords plugged into the outlet," he said. "They saw a spark and smoke and then fire."

Firefighters responded to the fire call at 12:48 p.m.

Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Capt. Mike Adams said when firefighters arrived, "one room was heavily involved with fire."

"Firefighters initiated an aggressive interior attack," he said.

"There is heavy smoke damage and heat damage to the rest of the house,"

pervised and playing on a bed when it appeared that "one of the kids kicked an electrical cord near the bed."

Nearly bedding caught fire, and the children got out of the house safely, Adams said. There were no injuries, he said.

The children went to another relative's home just a few houses away, Adams said.

Harrison said his 14-year-old grandson, "is very mature for his age" and helped everyone exit the house.

"The 14-year-old was instrumen-

Harrison said the younger children were visiting from Charlotte. The 14-year-old, who is from Newport News, Virginia, arrived Sunday, he said.

"The other three have been here since they got out of school," he said.

Harrison said his grandchildren visit him and his wife every summer.

Harrison, who has lived in the home for 35 years, said, "I just paid it off last March."

Contact the writer: mbrown@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-

Man charged with hugging child to death

By JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

A 26-year-old man has been charged with involuntary manslaughter more than a year after he hugged a 14-month-old child so tightly that the boy stopped breathing and died, Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenell said Wednesday.

Robert Kemp was taken into custody Tuesday and released on \$10,000 bond the next day. Kemp is described as a family friend in a news release from Ravenell.

An arrest warrant said Kemp killed the child "by giving him a bear hug, squeezing the victim so tight that the victim stopped breathing as a result."

Jaylen Harris died from asphyxiation, on June 27, 2013, Orangeburg County Chief Deputy Coroner Sean Fogle said.

Kemp told deputies he was playing with the child when he started to rub his eyes like he was tired, so he put the toddler in his crib on his back with his bottle, according to an incident report.

Kemp said he went to the kitchen to do some chores and realized he hadn't heard the boy in a while. He went back into the bedroom and noticed the toddler on his stomach, unconscious with his hands balled into fists, according to the report.

Another person in the home, whose name was blacked out on the report, started CPR, but the boy could not be resuscitated, according to the report.

If convicted, Kemp faces up to five years in prison.

The sheriff's release didn't say why it took a year to bring charges,



Robert Kemp

Brian Symmes
Direct Line: (803) 734-0304
Cell: (803) 673-9437