

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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SC Front Pages – Sunday, January 26, 2014



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**LOOKING
AT BEAUTY**

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**Student
charged
in slaying**



The Greenville News

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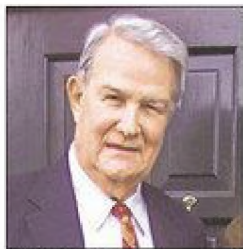
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INSIDE

Michaels crafts chain investigating possible data breach, 11A

FINAL EDITION

COMMUNITY LEADER



David Freeman

Friends mourn lawyer's death

David Freeman led effort to get Peace Center constructed

By Clark Brooks
Staff writer

Martin Luther King Jr. once said that visionaries dream with their eyes open. David L. Freeman, who died Friday, had such dreams.

The Peace Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Greenville is a case in point. Freeman, a lawyer by occupation, saw the need in long-range studies in the early 1980s. He approached Betty Stall, a member of the Peace family, in 1985, and they talked to the rest of the family.

"Three of them decided to give \$10 million for the construction of a performing arts center, no strings attached," Stall told *The Greenville News* on Saturday.

Eventually, they would raise an additional \$32 million, including contributions from the other three branches of the Peace family, she said, and the city chose the site.

Freeman lived 89 years, and friends said he accomplished something big in every one. When the end came, it happened fast, a massive heart attack a little before bedtime as he was watching cable TV news at his home in the Acadia community of Greenville, said Caleb Freeman, one of his four children.

"He was, in all senses of the word, the patriarch," Caleb Freeman said. "Everybody looked up to my father. He was our rock."

The joke was that it was like living in the old E.F. Hutton commercial, he said. "When David Freeman talks, everybody

FIGHTING CRIME WITH TWEETS, POSTS

Upstate law enforcement use social media to aid cases

By Anna Lee
Staff writer
alee@greenvilleonline.com

When Barry Norman was shot and killed in Fountain Inn last year, police used his social media account to help identify suspects. Messages sent back and forth told investigators that Norman had been feuding with two men the night he was killed. And postings on his personal page gave them plenty of potential witnesses, said Fountain Inn Police Chief Keith Morton.

"We kept identifying new names and kept interviewing people until we were able to put it together," Morton said.

Detectives worked through the deluge, eventually identifying suspects thanks to a trail of text messages and surveillance video of the getaway taken from nearby buildings.

Just as police did in Fountain Inn, law enforcement agencies elsewhere are

PLUGGED IN

Meet the self-described "social media guru" behind the Greenville Police Facebook page in a video at GreenvilleOnline.com.

finding that the posts made on social media networks can often become the first building blocks of a case.

Some criminals apparently aren't shy about sharing, either. They've been known to brag about robberies, threaten witnesses, post photos of stolen goods, even upload incriminating videos of themselves, said Walt Wilkins, 13th Circuit solicitor.

Upstate law enforcement officials declined to detail how they use social media for investigations, saying they don't want to tip off perpetrators or disclose techniques.

"About all I can say is we do use the Internet for investigative purposes, but we will not specify what we do or any sites in particular that we use," said Drew Pinciaro, a spokesman for the Greenville County Sheriff's Office.

Using social media for criminal investigations is common — 86 percent of 500 law

See SOCIAL, Page 3A



Greenville Police spokesman Johnathan Bragg said posting details about a crime on the department's Facebook page can instantly spread the information to thousands of citizens, yielding tips and leading to charges. MYKAL MCLEOD/WNE VISTA



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The State

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USC'S FABULOUS FRESHMEN

Sindarius Thornwell and Alaina Coates are living up to expectations. **SPORTS, C1**

GANG VIOLENCE: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Police: Residents' role vital in curbing gangs

INSIDE
Taking action
against gangs.
PAGE A4

ONLINE
Video: How
authorities are
combating gang
violence at
thestate.com.

Spike in violence in 2013 spurs
call for community members' help

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
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Gang violence in the Midlands increased in 2013 as gangs retaliated against each other and as the public grew complacent about their existence, some of the Midlands'

top law enforcement officers say.

"This summer was horrendous," said Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott. "This summer, we saw the gangs go crazy like we did in the early 2000s."

"They would have a home

invasion, a shooting in the city, on Atlas Road. The next night, we would have three drive-by shootings."

Interim Columbia Police Chief Ruben Santiago and Lott said law enforcement has continued its work to arrest gang members for violence, drug dealing and gun trafficking. But several years

SEE GANGS PAGE A4

Did our photographer snap you Saturday night at the **Jason Aldean** and Florida-Georgia Line concert at Colonial Life Arena? Go to thestate.com to find out.



New generation discovers the nuclear option

Summer nuke plant welcomes next wave of younger workers

By RODDIE BURRIS
rburris@thestate.com

In 2009, fresh out of college with a civil engineering degree from Clemson University, 26-year-old Findlay Salter was driving a forklift at a Lowe's store in the wake of the worst recession in a lifetime.

While growing up in Irmo, Salter said, he had never heard of the V.C. Summer nuclear plant in Jenkinsville, 30 minutes outside Columbia.

But just months after starting his forklift job, Salter was hired into S.C. Electric & Gas Company's new licensing department just in time to assist as the company sought its all-important construction and operating licenses from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"When I got the call ... I jumped about 3 feet in the air," he said.

Salter is part of a bright new posse of nuclear professionals fresh on the scene in the Palmetto

Chief justice battle has nervous lawmakers wringing their hands



JOHN MCKIN/AMONK@THESTATE.COM

S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal, right, huddles after hours Thursday in the State House lobby with her chief vote counter in the House, Rep. Jenny Horne, R-Dorchester.

SEE NUCLEAR PAGE A10

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TODAY'S DEAL

TOAL-PLEICONES A HIGH STAKES GAME OF THRONES

Chas. teen arrested in killing of S.C. State athlete. SOUTH, B1

A look back at
Lou Holtz's impact
on football

SPORTS, C1



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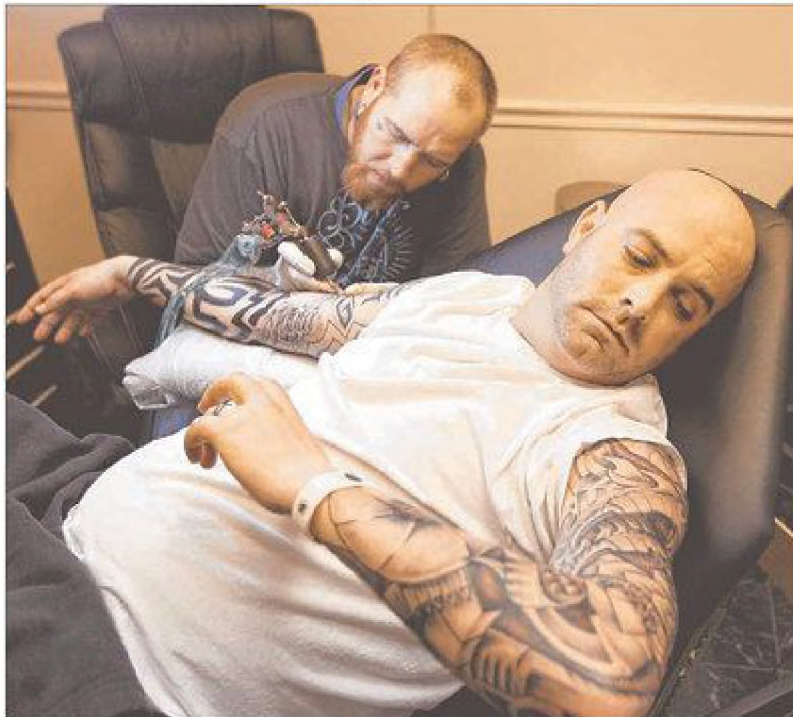
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Inked in S.C.

State welcomed 105 tattoo parlors in decade after ban ended



Tattoo artist Steve Beasley works on the right arm of Robbie Joyner as he shows off Beasley's work on his left arm on Jan. 16 at Mystic Tiki Tattoo in Summerville. PHOTO BY GLENN SMITH

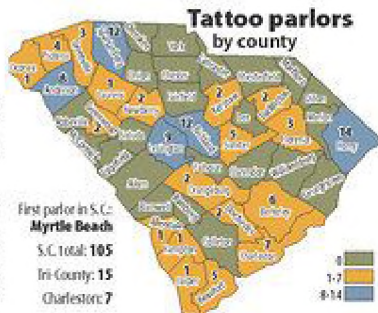
BY GLENN SMITH | gsmith@postandcourier.com

Samantha Grady rested her head on a cushion, lips pursed as an electric needle bobbed up and down along the tender flesh of her forearm. Zzzzzzz! Dab, Dab, Zzzzzzz! Dab, Dab. And so it went as tattoo artist Betsy Gafgen inked the lines of an original composition on Grady's skin, pausing regularly to wipe the excess fluids from her epidermal canvas.

Grady, a 23-year-old diner worker, didn't so much as flinch at the pain as the bygone inside Roses & Rain Tattoo on Charleston's Meeting Street Road. She'd been through it before, and would gladly go under the needle again. "I love art, and I like to have it on me," she said.

It seems she is in good company in South Carolina. Since the state ended its ban on tattooing in 2004, more than 100 tattoo parlors have sprung up around the state, from Pickens to the Grand Strand and various points in between.

Please see TATTOO, Page A6



8 teachers get paid while not teaching

Appeals process costs county \$150K

BY DIETTE GOURAS-GARREY | dgouras@postandcourier.com

The Charleston County School District has shelled out more than \$150,000 to pay eight teachers who haven't set foot in a classroom this year because their contracts were not renewed from the previous school year.

The district decided in April 2013 to terminate a group of teachers for the 2013-14 school year, but state law gives them the right to appeal to the county school board.

Ten of them did so, five of those hearings have taken place, but the other five have not, mostly because the board hasn't gotten a quorum of its members — five — together to hear the cases.

Teachers will continue earning a paycheck, and not doing any work until the board hears their appeals.

"It's despicable," said Jon Watron, former leader of a Charleston education advocacy group. "If they had to come up with that \$150,000 out of their own pockets, these appeal hearings would've long since been addressed. But it's not their money. They should treat it like it's their money, and that's part of the obligation they have to the citizens of Charleston County."

Please see TEACHERS, Page A6

Other states' losses fuel S.C. growth

Migration boosts population size

BY DAVID SLADE | dslade@postandcourier.com

People who relocated to the Palmetto State accounted for two-thirds of the state's population growth since 2010, giving South Carolina one of the nation's fastest growth rates, new Census Bureau estimates show. The state's ability to attract residents from other states and nations helped give South Carolina the nation's 11th fastest growth rate in 2013, and the 11th highest number of new residents in any state that year.

The new Census report breaks that growth down, showing how much came from the "natural increase" — births minus deaths — and how much came from domestic and international migration.

Please see CENSUS, Page A5



Shopping for plants that survive, thrive?

HOME & REAL ESTATE, D1

What happened to American LaFrance?

MONEY & JOBS, F1



Expanded food section to debut with new look

COMING WEDNESDAY



Charleston Deals Today
PearleVision
\$39 for \$200 worth of prescription eyewear | See A2

Setting the record straight



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SUNDAY, January 26, 2014

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Students participate in teen marshmallow games
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Andy Johnson, Aiken
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Doris Pearl Patterson, Aiken
Elsie Elmore Gillman, West Columbia
George Sapp, Langley
Pastor Richard Pook, Aiken
Robert Jowers, Warrenville
Ruby Mack, Warrenville
Steve W. Conder II, Wagener
Deaths and Funerals, 6-7A

WEATHER

How taxes stack up

School Board wants to put penny sales tax option before Aiken County voters

BY ROB NOVIT
novit@aikenstandard.com

Aiken County Board of Education members are working hard to give county residents the opportunity next fall to vote in support of a penny sales tax referendum.

A new one-cent sales tax could provide funds for the construction of new schools or for additions to existing schools, they say.

At a meeting with the Aiken County Legislative Delegation earlier this month, School Board Chairman Rosemary Eng-

lish addressed the School District's needs.

"You know about the conditions of some of our buildings," she said. "Most of them are 60 years old, and one of them is 90 years old."

The Board already is getting a huge assist from the Aiken County Legislative Delegation. Exist-

ing state law will not allow the School Board to call for a sales tax referendum — therefore, the issue cannot be put on the ballot for voters. With the backing of his colleagues, S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, introduced a bill

in the Senate last week that would allow Aiken County to put a referen-



dum on the ballot.

It would change the regulation and pave the way for the Aiken School District and others statewide — they would get the option to put a such a referendum up to voters in the November election. If voters chose to approve, the District could raise up to \$20 million annually for several years.

Four years ago, the School Board asked voters for \$236 million through a construction bond referendum to build or rebuild six schools. The

funding would have come through property tax hikes, but voters soundly rejected the referendum by a 70-30 percent margin. However, a one-cent sales tax would not increase or impact property taxes at all.

So what makes this different than the referendums currently allowed in the county?

What about that penny?

A couple of generations back, a kid

could buy a penny candy or stick a penny in a vending machine for pretty big piece of bubble gum. What does a penny get you in the 21st century? Not so much in the terms of daily commerce.

The debate continues: Should the penny be abandoned or should it remain out of sentiment?

In a one-cent referendum, a penny is entirely a different animal. A one-cent sales tax increase could raise up to \$20 million annually over several years. School Board members strongly point out the potential benefits to the school system and the community.

With additional funds, they could speed up existing projects for new construction and upgrades to existing schools — speeding up a process that now could take decades.

"The needs are not going away," School Board Vice Chairman Levi Green told Aiken County legislators earlier this month. "They only will get worse unless we have a referendum."

Past initiative

In November 2010, the School Board tried a different approach to raise money for its schools — a property tax referendum that would have raised \$236 million for far more ambitious projects to build or rebuild six schools. That would have left more money for other construction and maintenance.

The 2010 referendum failed miserably, and Board members and School District officials readily admit they handled the campaign poorly. They believe a sales tax referendum will be much more palatable to voters. They'll also provide details of what the penny will pay for.

New initiatives

Let's make it clear: The School Board can't just order an additional penny to the sales taxes that people pay on products and services every day.

Please see PENNY, Page 5A

Abandoned mobile homes: A difficult problem to solve

BY AMY BANTON
abanton@aikenstandard.com

When discovering an unwanted, abandoned or dilapidated manufactured home near or on one's property, it may seem that the problem could easily be solved by making a few phone calls.

But there's a process beyond contacting Aiken County building inspectors. Getting rid of an eyesore that can be a tripping hazard for criminal

ing to resolve for years.

The County has found itself stalled in taking action due to state law requirements.

Derelict mobile homes

According to state law, a derelict mobile home is an unlivable structure that's been unoccupied for at least 30 days with "clear and convincing evidence that the occupant does not

on their property and wants it removed, they have to contact the County to have it inspected and file a plea with a magistrate, the state law reads. What complicates the matter is that the law stipulates the landowner has to notify the owner of the mobile home or any lien holders.

In many cases, these manufactured homes are left without a title, so pinning down an owner can be tedious.

Abandoned mobile homes are a widespread problem in Aiken County.

County Councilwoman Lawana McKenzie has reached out to state legislators over the years in hopes to have the laws loosened just enough where counties around the state can have more control over the situation.

She said the process to enable the county to be able to demolish these mobile homes also eats away at the funds set aside in the budget that cover the costs of handling them.



The Beaufort Gazette

SUNDAY, January 26, 2014

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Divorce papers reveal financial problems

The revelations come as state Rep. Andy Patrick makes a bid for state school superintendent

ON THE WEB

To see related documents and video of Hilton Head Island state Rep. Andy Patrick announcing his bid for education chief, click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.



Patrick

By FITZ McADEN
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 843-706-8110

A divorce case involving Hilton Head Island Rep. Andy Patrick paints a picture of a politician who spent beyond his means, whose four children are on food stamps and Medicaid, and who now lives

outside of his district in a fellow legislator's guest house.

Patrick, who recently announced he is running for state superintendent of education, also figures in a lawsuit that alleges he took for himself money that a relative intended to be used for a down payment on a home in Spanish Wells for Patrick

and his wife, Amee. Andy Patrick also "cheated (a former business partner) out of monies due," ultimately having to settle for about \$35,000 to avoid a lawsuit, according to an affidavit from Amee Patrick and interviews with two other people familiar with the situation. Andy Patrick declined to be in-

terviewed for this story. He said an interview might be possible on Thursday, after a hearing in Family Court. His lawyer, Norman D. Brannon, a fellow House of Representatives member from Spartanburg, said claims in Amee

Please see PATRICK on 21A

IN MARYLAND

3 dead in mall shooting

A gunman killed a man and a woman at a skate shop in Maryland before killing himself.

By ERIC TUCKER
 The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Md. — A man carrying a shotgun opened fire at a busy shopping mall in suburban Baltimore on Saturday, killing two employees of a skate shop and then himself as panicked shoppers ran for cover, police said.

Five others were injured.

Police were still trying to determine the motive of the gunman who killed a man and a woman, both in their 20s, at a skate shop called Zumiez on the upper level of the Mall in Columbia.

Please see SHOOTING on 21A

SEAFOOD PROCESSING PLAN

Jellyfish plant stirs up worries

By ERIN MOODY
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 843-706-8184

A debate about the pros and cons of a plant in Beaufort County to process cannonball jellyfish is heating up.

The plan is being considered at community, county and state levels as government officials, residents and Carolina Jelly Ball LLC representatives discuss permits and plans for the state's first such operation. The jellyfish would be caught in local waters, processed, then shipped to Asian markets, where they are considered a

PIECES OF THE PAST

ON THE WEB: For video of an exhibit featuring artifacts recently unearthed from Mitchelville, please go to beaufortgazette.com.



Refugee quarters in October 1864 in Mitchelville

MAKING MITCHELVILLE REAL:
 Dig provides connection to former freed slaves' town



Coastal Discovery Museum visitors take in the exhibit "Finding Freedom's Home: Archaeology at Mitchelville" on Thursday. The exhibit, which runs through March 31, features artifacts unearthed recently by archaeologists at the site of the former freed slaves' town on Hilton Head Island.

JAY KARR • Staff photo

FINDING FREEDOM'S HOME: ARCHAEOLOGY AT MITCHELVILLE

• **WHAT:** New exhibit features artifacts recently unearthed from historic Mitchelville on Hilton Head Island
 • **WHERE:** Coastal Discovery Museum

By TOM BARTON • tbarton@islandpacket.com • 843-706-8169

For more than a century, photographs, maps and historical accounts gave a glimpse into the lives of former slaves who fled to Hilton Head Island in search of freedom.

Largely missing were artifacts providing a tangible connection to the past. Until now,

Archaeologists last year found remnants of old homes, wells and gar-

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COUPONS NOT
GUARANTEED
IN ALL AREAS

Foothills Hideaway

Antiques, modern touches fill home.

PAGE D1



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HJ

IN A HURRY

5 Things
to read
today



Heartfelt words

Wofford College student Katherine Buchanan knew something was wrong when she had to stop for rest every 100 feet or so during a hike with friends last summer.

PAGE C1

Conflicted GOP

The dueling faces of a conflicted political party were on display for all to see at the just-concluded Republican National Committee meeting.

PAGE A3

Violence in Egypt

The anniversary of Egypt's 2011 uprising brought a violent display of the country's divisions, as giant crowds danced at government-backed rallies and security forces crushed demonstrations by rival Islamists and secular activists.

PAGE A7

Autopsy results

Autopsy results of a man killed in an officer-involved shooting Friday afternoon near Gaffney indicate he died from one of four gunshot wounds, according to the Cherokee County Coroner's Office.

PAGE C1

Body found

A woman was found dead inside her Spartanburg home Saturday afternoon after a relative noticed the home's kitchen had caught fire some time earlier.

PAGE C2

Weather



Partly
sunny
High 47
Low 34

On the Web

Visit GoUpstate.com for breaking news and sports stories, and to see our editors' picks for

FACE OF HYDROCEPHALUS



PHOTOS BY JOHN BYRUM/JOHN.BYRUM@SHU.COM

Above, 4-year-old Owen Rush is one of two children chosen to serve as this year's "National Face of Hydrocephalus Awareness," for the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation, an advocacy group that works to increase awareness and education about hydrocephalus in the United States. Owen sits in his Little Tikes car. Below, Charlee-Kate, Owen and Drake Rush watch a video.

Child's brain battles help raise awareness

Before his first birthday, Owen Rush had undergone five surgeries for an incurable brain condition.

The 4-year-old Chesnee boy will raise awareness of the condition he's battled since birth in a national campaign.

Owen will serve as the 2014 "National Face of Hydrocephalus Awareness" for the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation. Owen will represent male children, while a 4-year-old New Jersey child will represent girls.

Owen will be featured in ad campaigns, promotional materials and literature for National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month in September. He and his family also will travel to Washington, D.C., for "National Hydrocephalus Awareness Day on Capitol Hill" in August.

Hydrocephalus affects hundreds of thousands of Americans of all ages, according to the Hydrocephalus Association. The condition occurs when excess cerebrospinal fluid surrounds the brain and spinal cord. The excess fluid can harm brain tissue



and can be fatal. Hydrocephalus occurs at birth or might develop later in life.

Owen's parents, James and Stacie Rush, learned Owen, their second child, had the condition when Stacie was 20 weeks pregnant.

"We didn't know anything about hydrocephalus," James said.

The couple was faced with many unknowns and asked many

questions. Why did Owen have it? How did he get it? What would happen after his birth?

Stacie said they were uncertain what potential challenges awaited their son.

Abortion was not an option.

"We just continued with the pregnancy," Stacie said.

◆ SEE OWEN PAGE A11

Gunman, 2 others dead in shooting

Five injured at Maryland mall

By ERIC TUCKER

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Md. — A man carrying a shotgun opened fire at a busy shopping mall in suburban Baltimore on Saturday, killing two employees of a skate shop and then himself as panicked shoppers ran for cover, police said. Five others were injured.

Police were still trying to determine the identity and motive of the gunman who killed a man and a woman, both in their 20s, at a skate shop called Zumiez on the upper level of the Mall in Columbia.

Witnesses described hearing gunshots and screams as shoppers ducked into nearby stores and hid behind locked doors. Many found cover in stockrooms and barricaded themselves until the arrival of police, who searched store to store. By late afternoon, the mall had been cleared of shoppers and employees.

Howard County Police Chief William J. McMahon said at a news conference that authorities had difficulty identifying the gunman because of concerns he might be carrying explosives and were proceeding with an "abundance of caution."

"We do not know yet what caused the shooting incident," he said. "We do not have a motive."

Someone called 911 at around 11:15 a.m. to report a shooting at the mall. Police responded to the scene within 2 minutes and found three people dead — including the apparent gunman near a gun and ammunition — either inside or outside the shop, which sells skateboards, clothing and accessories. McMahon said police were confident there was a single gunman.

Police identified the victims as 21-year-old Brianna Benlolo of College Park, Md., and 25-year-old Tyler Johnson of Ellicott City, Md. Both worked at Zumiez.

Benlolo's grandfather, John Feins, said in a telephone interview from Florida that his granddaughter had a 2-year-old son and that the job at Zumiez was her first since she went back to work after her son's birth.

Lakelands wrestlers
thrive at tournament, **1B**



BRIDES 2014

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section inside

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INDEX-JOURNAL

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5 SECTIONS, 46 PAGES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Report: De la Howe expenditure excessive Inspector General says \$87,000 annual per-student costs too unjustifiable

By KATE HRUBY

khruby@indexjournal.com

State Inspector General (SIG) Patrick J. Maley published his review of the management of John de la Howe School on Friday.

The review was conducted to "assess organizational effectiveness" at JDLH, a school for wayward youth in grades 6-12.

Coincidentally, school president

Thomas Mayer officially began his monthlong medical leave through the Family Medical Leave Act on Friday. Viola Faust, the school's chief financial officer, will serve as acting president in the interim.

Faust was not willing to comment on the report of the review.

The report, which reviewed the 2012-13 school year, stated the average per student cost to be a staggering \$87,000 a year. With student

enrollment for 2012-13 at an average of 54 students, student costs were measured at \$240 each per day. According to the report: "In FY 2012-2013, JDLH total expenditures were \$5,409,961."

The report stated the high cost per student was a result of mismanagement and underutilization, with the school focusing on procedures and achievements in its 2012-13 Annual Accountability Report, rather sys-

More info

■ **Website:** A copy of the inspector general's report and JDLH's response to the report is available for public viewing on the OIG website, www.oig.sc.gov.

tematically collecting data monitoring quantifiable results.

According to the inspector general's report: "The cost/student has

rised to \$87,000 annually and questions about JDLH's costs are still circulating. Why? JDLH has no performance management system to demonstrate results in relationship to costs."

The school's failure to adequately monitor and collect quantitative data and empirical evidence as to whether its methods of rehabilitation are

See **REPORT**, page 4A

FOOD FACTORY

Volunteers bag meals for the needy

By FRANK BUMB

fbumb@indexjournal.com

A bronze gong rang out with a sharp, loud note but was quickly overtaken by scores of cheers. American Legion Post 20 was not the site of a gladiatorial match, but an altogether different sort of combat.

More than 100 volunteers from the Greenwood and Emerald City Rotary clubs, associated high school interact clubs, Boy Scouts, church groups and other volunteers took up the battle against hunger Saturday morning. Each strike of the gong heralded another 1,000 bagged meals prepared and packaged. The groups, partnering with Stop Hunger Now, heard 24 strikes on the gong as they packaged 24,192 meals in just under 90 minutes.

"It's the most fun you'll have doing good," said Doug Kauffmann, the World Community Service Program Chairman for the Rotary Club of Greenwood. "The meals go to Haiti, West Africa, wherever (Stop Hunger Now's) ship is going."

The more than 24,000 meals represents a steady increase for the Feed the Hungry event, Kauffmann said.

"We've done this for the past five years," he said. "The first two years, we had about 10,000 meals, the next two, we made 20,000 each year and this year, we have 24,000 for a total of about 84,000 meals."

Each bagged meal consists of four ingredients: a vitamin mixture, dried vegetables, soy and rice. The bagged meal can feed five to six people.

But the important part of the project is not just providing the meal, but also getting volunteers invested in their work. Steve Deal, assistant projects manager with Stop Hunger Now, said the response to the food packaging program was outstanding.

"It's a way to engage volunteers," Deal said. "It's not just raising money, but putting their hands on the meals they'll send to people in need."

Deal's area of responsibility includes western North Carolina and all of South Carolina. "Last year, we packaged 4.3 million meals," Deal said.

Jon Scott, president of the Rotary Club of Greenwood, said the project would not be possible without a matching \$3,000 grant



PHOTOS BY MADDY JONES | INDEX JOURNAL

Members of the Greenwood High School Interact Club package and weigh meals at an event to feed the hungry in conjunction with Stop Hunger Now run by Greenwood and Emerald City Rotary clubs.



■ RESTRUCTURING

SC gov't to change

Bill begins dividing
agency's duties in July

SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A bill being talked about as the largest overhaul of state government in 20 years is on its way to desk of Gov. Nikki Haley, who praises the restructuring both she and her predecessor fought for as bringing South Carolina out of the dark ages.

But explaining how taxpayers benefit won't be easy as she and her Democratic opponent tout its passage on the campaign trail.

The measure won't produce immediate savings, as no layoffs are expected. In fact, it will require additional spending initially, with the hiring of a new agency director and extra legislative staff to help the Legislature comply with its newly required reviews of agency programs.

Other undetermined costs will be incurred by the moving around and renaming of government divisions.

But supporters said the soon-to-be-signed law will eventually save the state millions through centralized purchasing and technology services.

Other benefits are less measurable, with supporters summing up the changes as making government more effective and accountable.

The bill's passage is a "win that will finally provide the people of this state with the efficient, cost effective, and forward looking government they deserve," said Haley spokesman Doug Mayer. "Gov. Haley has long maintained that government needs to run like a business and this is a major step in that direction."

Mayer called it a great, bipartisan win after a three-year fight. But the fight actually started with former GOP Gov. Mark Sanford, whose antagonist relationship with legislators — who opposed the bill as giving the governor more power — made passage during his tenure increasingly unlikely. Haley then managed to

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B1

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A2

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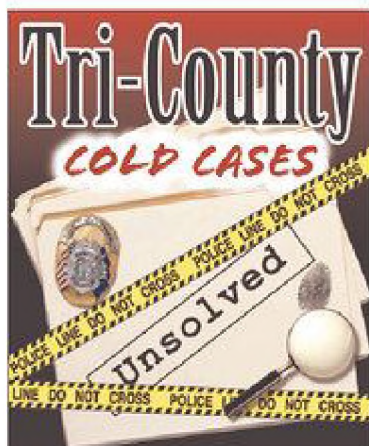
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Invasion death still shocking to victim's family

Man killed while fiancée,
infant son hide in house

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
bmarchant@theitem.com

Antonio Dixon sat down on a Friday night to watch TV with his fiancée and infant son. Moments later, the 26-year-old was dead of a gunshot wound.

Bad blood and drugs are suspected of playing a part in why Dixon was shot to death by a masked man during a home invasion on the night of May 18, 2012, but investigators are still searching for the suspect who pulled the trigger.

The couple and child sat down shortly before 11 p.m. when Dixon arrived home on McCleary Lane.

"I think she had even just made a sandwich," said Lt. Robert Burnish with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office.

Moments later, an unknown man kicked in the home's front door, and engaged in a struggle with Dixon while the woman and child ran into the back of the house to hide.

Gunshots rang out. Then silence.

When the 25-year-old woman emerged a short time later, both the gunman and Dixon were gone. She called 911. When deputies arrived on scene, they found Dixon about 75 yards behind the house, where he had collapsed from a bullet wound to the side of his chest.

He tried to speak to the deputies — "He



DIXON

SEE DIXON, PAGE A5

Item's new look coming Tuesday

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
revans@theitem.com

On Tuesday, the Sumter community will notice some major changes to its local paper. Jan. 28 will be the first day of the new and improved local newspaper, *The Sumter Item*. After diligent work with a consultant, The Osteen Publishing Co. will roll out a revamped newspaper to better serve our readers.

The newspaper has had a number of house advertisements in it, giving an overview of the

Read more about
the changes coming
to *The Item*

A8

new design and the company's efforts to reach new readers.

Some of the changes you will notice are the new name and designed masthead, which has been changed from *The Item* to *The Sumter Item*, and the size of

the paper, which will now be five columns instead of six. The change in the number of columns in *The Sumter Item* makes it much easier for advertisers, explained Publisher Jack Osteen.

The price of the paper throughout the week will also change on Feb. 1. Weekday papers and Saturday papers will increase in cost from 60 cents to 75 cents, while Sunday's paper will remain \$1.50.

As you've noticed in the past

SEE NEW LOOK, PAGE A5

Shaw honors exceptional servicemen

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
revans@theitem.com

The 20th Fighter Wing for the U.S. Air Force hosted its Awards Gala Saturday night at Shaw Air Force Base to honor those who provided exceptional service in 2013, as a number of airmen and family members attended the semi-formal event which included dinner and dancing.

More than 40 service members were nominated in different categories for their work on and off base in 2013. During the ceremony, Colonel Clark Quinn explained that the process of choosing one service member for each category was a difficult process after supervisors submitted thoroughly convincing information about each nominee's military efforts.

"You're all winners," Quinn said. "On a night like tonight, you should be proud of what you've done."

Maj. Jennifer Garrison, administrator for the clinic on base, handles the budget for the clinic and provides her services as wing inspection chief. Garrison, a



MATT WALSH / THE ITEM

Airmen are saluted before being honored at the annual Air Force Gala on Thursday at Shaw Air Force Base.

SEE SHAW, PAGE A5

Hobi named Businessman of the Year

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

Sumter mayor Joe McElveen, who was given



EMS-Chemie North America president and CEO Guido

BUSINESS

Florence Crossing coming together.
Page 1B



SPORTS

FMU loses to USC Aiken.
Page 1D



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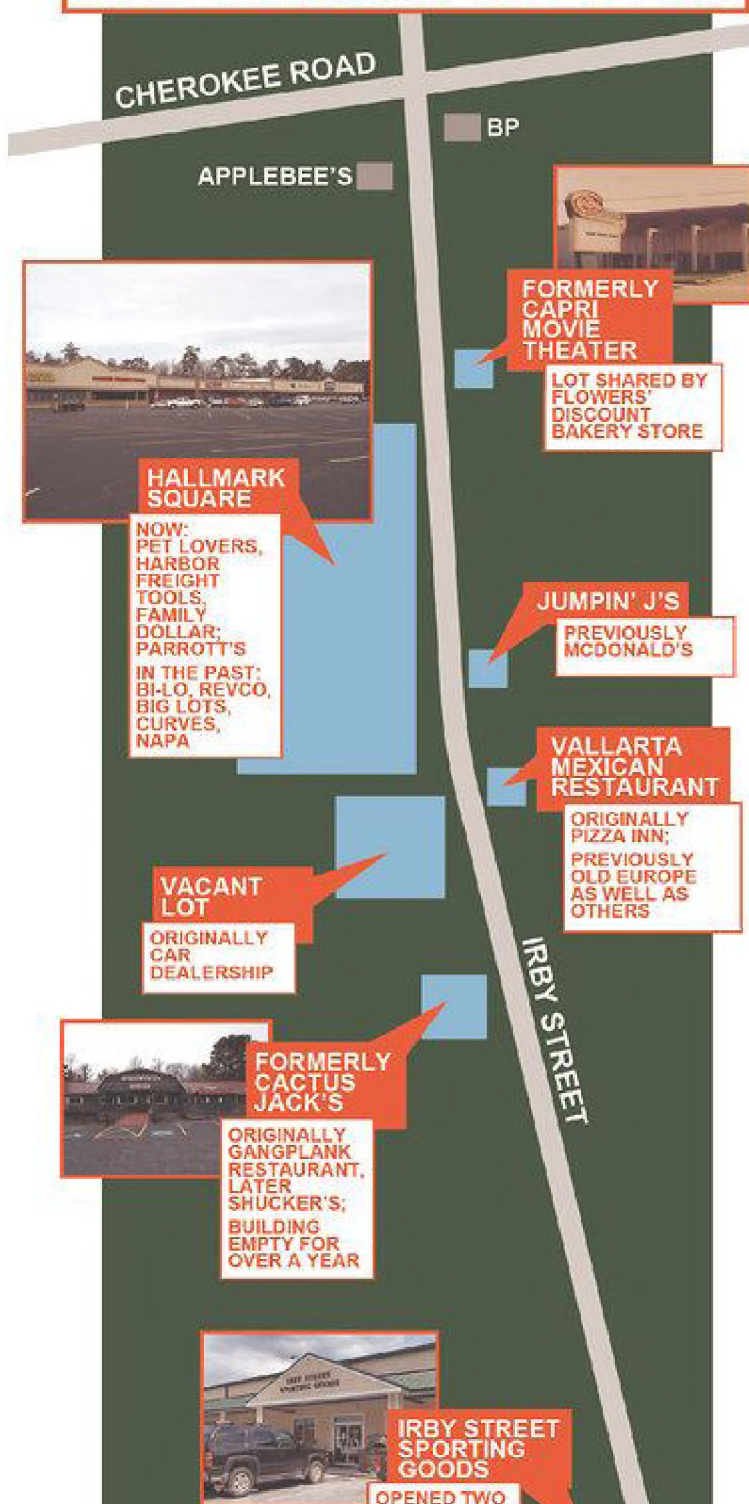
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SPECIAL REPORT

Forgotten IRBY STREET

IRBY THROUGH THE YEARS



Downtown gets a face-lift, but busy thoroughfare looks like an afterthought

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@florencenews.com

INSIDE

Residents say Irby Street is falling behind. 4A

FLORENCE

Irby Street has been a part of J.P. Costas' life for nearly half a century.

His parents opened the Gangplank Restaurant on Irby — about midway between Cherokee and Second Loop roads — around 1965. He remembers well the days when the area was booming with activity and people.

"There was shopping, restaurants, movies. The Gangplank always drew a good crowd," Costas said. "That area was really a hub for that side of town."

But that was then.

In the years since, the area's appearance hasn't changed much. The development and activity have dwindled significantly.

Costas knows it well. After years in the restaurant and

nightclub business at 705 S. Irby St. — just north of Cherokee Road — he closed shop and sold his building.

"The city's changed," Costas said. "It wasn't all location. The economy played a part, too. But at this point in time, in this city, all the growth is going south or west. It's kind of hung the people on Irby Street and that area out to dry. All the focus is down in the middle of downtown, not the surrounding areas, and until the city or people around here get interested in Irby Street and that area and start doing something to refurbish it, it's not gonna get any better."

Mike Timmons Jr. agrees. About 15 years ago, he and

See IRBY, Page 4A



Longtime restaurant owners Marti (left) and J.P. Costas have seen the highs and lows of Irby Street.

What's next for Irby? City says not much

Owner of the corridor from Cherokee to Jeffries Creek has no interest in selling it

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — While most everyone agrees that something needs to be done along the Irby Street corridor, the area's future remains somewhat in limbo.

but we haven't received any formal proposals or anything like that," said Phillip Lookadoo, director of planning, research and development for the city of Florence. "The downtown overlay district extends to Cherokee Road, but beyond that, I don't know of anything in the works on



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Teen charged in SCSU killing

19-year-old accused of killing S.C. State student;
SLED not saying whether other suspects sought

Justin Bernard Singleton is escorted into the courtroom at the Orangeburg County Law Enforcement Complex for his first appearance Saturday morning. The Charleston man, 19, is accused of murder in the death of an S.C. State student.

See video of the hearing at TheTandD.com

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

The man believed to have killed a South Carolina State University football player during an argument on Friday was in jail on Saturday.

Justin Bernard Singleton, 19, of 2007 Woodland Road, Charleston, is housed at the Orangeburg County Detention Center after he appeared for arraignment before Orangeburg County Magistrate Donald West on Saturday morning.

Singleton is charged with murder after he allegedly shot and killed Brandon Alexander Robinson, 20, on the S.C. State campus just before 2 p.m. Friday.

The State Law Enforcement Division announced early Saturday that law enforcement took Singleton into custody in Orangeburg.

The arrest warrant states Singleton was arguing with Robinson when he "pulled out a gun and fired at Robinson,

men were being sought in a multiagency manhunt off the S.C. State campus.

SLED spokesman Thom Berry said Saturday there is no ongoing safety concern for the community, but he declined to say whether there is still an active manhunt.

First Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe said he was notified of the shooting moments after it happened. He is receiving updates as the investigation unfolds. Pascoe is confident the arrest means the shooter has been apprehended.

Investigators have not learned about the nature of the argument that led to the shooting.

"It doesn't really matter," Pascoe said. "We have one person who is dead and another facing a serious charge."

Pascoe said law enforcement has fielded questions as to the possibility of the shooting as gang-related, but the investigation has not turned up any evidence to lead authorities to that conclusion.

"My heart goes out to the Robinson family, especially his mother," Pascoe said. "You send your child to college to get



"He loved life and was always up tempo spirit-wise," Orangeburg-Wilkinson athletic director and coach Tommy Brown said of Brandon Robinson, shown here from one of his posted images on Facebook.

'TALENTED,'
'NATURALLY
BRIGHT'Former coach,
teacher, others
speak out about
slain studentBy MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Those who knew Brandon Alexander Robinson, 20, say he had his heart and mind set on being a successful engineer.

The Orangeburg native was fatally shot Friday about 1:48 p.m. on the campus of South Carolina State University in the parking lot of 300 College St. near the Andrew Hugine Suites Living and Learning Community, according to the S.C. State Police Department incident report and a statement issued by the university Saturday morning.

He was a junior, and an outside linebacker and defensive end for the S.C. State Bulldogs.

"And he was doing something that he wanted to do and doing what he was supposed to do," said Robinson's former coach Tommy Brown, athletic director at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School.

Robinson graduated from O-W in 2011.

"He loved life and was always up tempo spirit-wise," Brown said.

"It's still hard to believe," Brown said during a telephone interview Saturday about Robinson's tragic death.

"It's tough to realize, but God is in control," he said.

Brown said Robinson was a "good" student and a "good" person.

Brian Symmes

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