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The Post and Courier

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Tuesday, July 5, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Police officer shot, protected by vest

SWAT team, SLED, deputies swarm scene in North Charleston on Waltham Road

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

A North Charleston police officer was shot while responding to a call

Monday afternoon, but a vest kept the bullet from causing serious injury.

It happened just before 5 p.m. on Waltham Road, a neighborhood off

Greenridge Road with neat brick houses, well-kept yards, trees blooming along the curb and teens outside shooting off July Fourth firecrackers. Police released few details about what happened, including why officers were there or what led up to the shooting. Police tape kept observers from seeing the actual crime scene. Deputy Chief David Cheate sent

out a one-sentence email.

"The officer was struck in the right side abdomen area — but thankfully the vest did its job and stopped the round," he said.

Members of the SWAT team were seen leaving the area with full body armor and rifles in hand. Berkeley County and Charleston County deputies also were on scene to assist,

The State Law Enforcement Division arrived on scene to investigate. Cheate referred all further questions to SLED.

A SLED spokesman was on leave Monday, according to an automated response to an email.

Reach Dave Munday at 843-937-5553.

Biggest preservation headache? Humans

Vandals, thieves make a mess of S.C.'s fragile historic, natural sites



Fig Island, hidden amid the Lowcountry marsh landscape, is home to elaborate oyster shell rings created by prehistoric people.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

Fig Island might be a mystery, but "Monkey Island" is a dare. The live oak upland island near Beaufort where free-roaming monkeys are bred for research has long been a party-boat destination, even though it's off limits to the general public. Boaters have tossed the monkeys potato chips, drinks or beers, despite signs warning that it's illegal — a practice so common that the monkeys have been known to pop the tops with an accustomed ease.

Fig Island and Morgan, or "Monkey," Island together could probably draw more visitors than all other taxpayer-owned natural destinations on the coast. But one is kept low-profile, the other privately run.

They are among a number of publicly owned sites along the coast where visitation can't be allowed or must be constrained, for reasons that include deed restrictions, research security and, more disturbingly, vandalism.

The lack of visitation represents a loss of potential tourism revenue and a vacation partly created by a few of the people the places have

been set aside for. The sites get torn apart and looted for artifacts — from tiny bone pins to millstones hefty enough to have to be winched out — that can be sold on exotic markets.

They are prominent examples of a dilemma public property managers deal with all through the state, region and country: how to keep the public from overrunning the very features preserved for them. More than a few are places where the damage done is irrevocable.

Examples of vandalism are myriad. Enough of the nearly three-century-old site markers at the Bonneau Ferry Wildlife Management Area in Berkeley County have been stolen that state managers have removed the rest for safekeeping.

So many shells were swiped at the once-shelled beach at Botany Bay Plantation that a policy allowing children to take a favorite has been ended. In one case, a woman had loaded her baby stroller with so many shells, she was stopped as she labored down the causeway pushing it while carrying her infant.

Please see PARKS, Page A4

Fig Island shell rings a mystery, treasure

Unusual structures the work of S.C.'s Archaic people

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

FIG ISLAND — These scraggly rings of shells and prickly pear cactus hold what might be the most fascinating prehistoric structure on the coast. But Fig Island is a mystery.

And when it comes to curiosity seekers, its managers want to keep it that way.

The shell ring complex is among the largest known that are still somewhat intact. It's comprised of one entire ring, the remains of at least two others with smaller ringlets and at least one causeway. The shell mounds rise as much as 13 feet high. They were built centuries

ago by people who were among the first known to live here: hunter-gatherers.

"They're not just trash piles," said Sean Taylor, S.C. Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust archaeologist. "This isn't a ring; it's a hexagon. Somebody designed it, brought people together to build it. It had some meaning. Unfortunately that's part of the past we're probably not going to get to."

For the Lowcountry, it's an incomparable deficiency. Fig Island, located in the Lowcountry estuaries, is maybe the most remarkable site on the Southeast coast.

This is a place that has been designated a National Historic Landmark, that at one point was proposed to be nominated as an esteemed World Heritage Site.

Please see ISLAND, Page A4

Scott on mission to help fight poverty

Senator goes beyond political realm to spread his message

BY EMMA DUMAIN
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WASHINGTON — During a recent event on Capitol Hill, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott began his remarks behind a microphone.

By the time he'd finished telling the audience of children's advocates the story of his upbringing — son of a single mom, practically failing out of school, "mired in poverty" in North Charleston — he was standing in front of the lectern.

"Can you hear me alright?" the South Carolina Republican said, coming alive outside the confines of his podium, free to pace the length of the aisle between the rows of chairs as he spoke.



Scott

Please see SCOTT, Page A6

Summer camp an EPIC way to learn

Program gets creative with math, science

BY PAUL BOWERS
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It started with a hypothesis. The rising first graders in the EPIC summer camp at North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary were about to drip food coloring onto billowing clouds of shaving cream suspended in mason jars.

Their first task was to guess how many drops it would take for the clouds to "rain."

The numbers ran the gamut: Three drops, 102, a two followed by a staggering series of zeroes.

"What is a hypothesis?" teacher Janet Mason asked an outspoken boy near the back of the classroom.

"A big guess," he replied. "Kiss your brain because you're so smart," Mason said.

Please see STEM, Page A4

Inside

LOCAL

Charleston aims to reduce contaminants in recycling. A2



NATION

With few political allies, Trump plans celebrity convention. A6

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Golden State Warriors set to sign Kevin Durant. C1



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Student's products replace barrels for flavoring liquor. B1



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Charleston Battle Ball \$240 for one hour of private bubble soccer up to 8 suits. See A2

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**CLEMSON FOOTBALL**

Tigers expect big things from standout sophomores, 1B

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\$1.00

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STAY CONNECTED THESTATE.COM[FACEBOOK.COM/THESTATENEWS](https://www.facebook.com/thestatenews)
[TWITTER.COM/THESTATE](https://twitter.com/thestate)TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY; T-STORM CHANCE HI 99 LO 76
YESTERDAY: HI 90 LO 78 PRECIP: (as of 5 p.m.) TRACE
FORECAST, 8C

The State

Hubbard gets ready for job as chief prosecutor

BY TIM FLACH
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Rick Hubbard already is preparing the first steps he will take after becoming chief prosecutor in Lexington County and nearby areas in January.

Known for meticulous planning, Hubbard said he is mulling "in my head on what I need to do" when he becomes the first new 11th Circuit solicitor in 40 years.

Hubbard is set to take over after

Planning is underway for the Lexington Republican set to take charge next year

No major staff shake-up expected — but definitely a more public style

winning the Republican nomination for the position in a runoff election last week.

His victory is tantamount to winning the post since no other candidate

is on the Nov. 8 ballot, although a long-shot write-in effort could develop.

He will replace his mentor as Solicitor Donnie Myers retires at 71 after a state record of 40 years in the job.

Hubbard is familiar with the inner workings of the office after 22 years as an assistant who rose to second-in-command under Myers.

No major staff shake-up is likely, but he is looking at changes to better

SEE HUBBARD, 7A

TIM FLACH tflach@thestate.com

Rick and Ann Hubbard relax after a trying primary run and before the new solicitor takes office in January.

**FIREFLIES**

HURST HAPPY TO BE BACK HOME

Patching coach, a Palmetto State native, hoping to move up the coaching ranks with the NY Mets. 1B

**PALMETTO**

MASKS HELP KIDS THROUGH RADIATION

Greenville radiation therapist decided the masks could at least be fun. 1C

BASEBALL HEROES AT LEXINGTON COUNTY PEACH FESTIVAL

AN EXTRA PEACHY HOMECOMING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TRACY GLANTZ tgantz@thestate.com

Coastal Carolina baseball players Connor Owings, left, Mike Morrison, both of Gilbert, and Andrew Beckwith, of Blythewood, ride in the parade at the Lexington County Peach Festival in Gilbert on Monday.

It was a homecoming Monday for three Midlands baseball heroes at the Lexington County Peach Festival.

Mike Morrison and Connor Owings, both Gilbert High alums, came back to hugs and smiles after helping Coastal Carolina win the College World

first try. Accompanying them was series MVP Andrew Beckwith, a teammate from Blythewood.

After riding in the festival parade, the players gave autographs and posed for pictures.

**ONLINE**

THESTATE.COM: See more photos from Monday and watch a video of the baseball heroes coming home.

MORE INSIDE



NBA, 1C DURANT JOINS CURRY



LIFESTYLE, 1D Group aims to prevent suicides

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TUESDAY,
JULY 5, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

IRAQIS FEAR COUNTRY PLUNGING BACK INTO SECTARIAN WAR PAGE 1B



Chris Miller, co-owner of Reedy River Farms, works at the farm on Mayberry Street downtown.

PHOTOS BY HEDI HEILBRUNNSTAFF

Feed & Seed project fills in 'missing link'

Goal is to create fluid food system throughout Upstate

LILLIA CALLUM-PENSO
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On a steamy summer morning, Mike McGirr, Jason Callaway and Chris Miller stroll the verdant rows of crops at Reedy River Farms and talk shop. Today's topic of choice — peppers. Callaway, the COO for Bacon Bros. Public House wants them, and thanks to McGirr's intervention, Miller, the co-owner of Reedy River Farms is going to grow them.

Since they know they can sell them, Miller and his business partner, George Dubose, plan to plant a crop of peppers just for Bacon Bros., and come fall, you'll likely see the Carolina Reaper peppers on the Bacon Bros. menu.

The Carolina Reaper pepper is an apt place to start a discussion about Feed & Seed. The food hub project has been three years in the making, and when it officially opens for business in April 2017, it will, organizers hope, create a better, more fluid food system throughout Greenville County and the Upstate.

The food hub will both allow local farmers a more efficient way to sell their crops, and make it easier for large scale consumers like restaurants and schools, as well as individuals, to pur-



Mike McGirr, left, executive director of Feed & Seed, speaks with Chris Miller, right, co-owner of Reedy River Farms, at the farm on Mayberry Street downtown.

But Feed & Seed's mission is not just about good food, it's about economics, and making it "local" more lucrative and easier for all parties. That means opening lines of communication be-

affordable, McGirr says, you can create a demand for local food.

A 2013 "Making Small Farms Into Big Business" study highlighted the potential of the state's agricultural

Payments from drug companies to doctors examined

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Doctors affiliated with hospitals in the Upstate and elsewhere around the South take payments from drug and medical device companies more than their peers in other parts of the country, a new analysis from ProPublica shows.

Doctors, however, say the payments are typically small, usually for meals, and don't influence them to use one product over another.

About two thirds of the doctors in the analysis got at least one such payment in 2014, a practice that isn't illegal but has been criticized, according to the nonprofit news organization.

Based on the number of payments doctors receive, South Carolina ranks 5th among states behind New Jersey, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida, according to the analysis, which looked at hospitals with at least 50 doctors in the top 100 specialties who participated in Medicare in 2014.

In fact, of the 33 South Carolina hospitals in the mix, all but one, the Medical University of South Carolina, exceeded the national average of 66 percent overall, 63 percent for teaching hospitals, and 70 percent for non-teaching hospitals.

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and St. Francis Downtown, for example, reported 89.4 percent and 89 percent of doctors taking payments, respectively.

But when ranked by the amount that doctors were paid, the tables are turned.

At MUSC, for example, \$2.58 million was paid to 352 doctors, according to ProPublica.

Of eight hospitals in the Upstate, Greenville Memorial leads the pack with \$1.24 million paid to 382 doctors followed by Spartanburg Regional, with payments of \$433,303 to 347 physicians.

Next is St. Francis Downtown with \$428,450 paid to 274 doctors, AnMed Health with \$286,560 paid to 214, Patewood Memorial with \$242,362 paid to 41 doctors, Baptist Easley with \$68,622 paid to 64, Oconee Memorial with \$68,437 paid to 44 and Mary Black with \$62,234 to 71 physicians.

But hospitals say the data are limited and confusing, and that the vast majority of payments are provided in the way of meals — lunches taken to doctors' offices by pharmaceutical representatives or dinners at educational functions.

And most payments total less than \$1,000 for the year.

Of the roughly 2,600 doctors listed at the Upstate hospitals, 1,810 got less than \$5,000, with 1,441 of them getting less than \$1,000 — 530 of them less than \$100, according to the analysis. Hundreds got no payments at all.

But in some cases, doctors have been paid many thousands of dollars, and sometimes in excess of \$100,000



SPORTS Hard work paying off for Dustin Johnson. **Page 1B**

Morning News

TUESDAY JULY 5, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

Clouds and sun, a t-storm or two. High 98, low 76.

DETAILS 2A

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LET FREEDOM BOOM



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

Fireworks lit up the sky Monday night at Darlington Raceway's third annual Freedom Fest.

Thousands celebrate nation's birthday at Darlington Raceway

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
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DARLINGTON — Heat radiated off the Darlington Raceway on Monday for the third annual Freedom Fest, where tens of thousands from across Florence and Darlington counties celebrated Independence Day.

"It's a little hot," said Pamela Charles as she waited for her children to purchase a snack. "But it's nice."

Charles attended Freedom Fest for the first time this year.

Though storms came early in the day, a crowd reappeared as the sun set in anticipation of the area's largest fireworks display, which Alonzo Lacy

predicted as he smoked ribs on his grill at the University of Barbeque tent.

A steady stream stopped for ribs and wings in the first few hours of the event, but "just you wait until it gets dark," Lacy said, when asked about attendance for the day.

In addition to ribs and barbecue, attendees enjoyed corn dogs, tacos, snow cones, burgers and more from the dozens of food vendors lining the raceway.

There also was a car show and live music from TJ Lazer, The Rick Strickland Band, Morgan's Road and The Blue Dogs, as well as midway games, a rock wall, a Ferris wheel and inflatables for the kids.

As Monday afternoon

became Monday evening, Alicia Picardo of Darlington danced to Morgan's Road with her two-year-old daughter, Avila.

In her second year at Freedom Fest, Picardo felt more relaxed. The event allows attendees to bring chairs and blankets. And it is family-friendly, she said, offering activities for children and a safe, fun and fenced-in area for her daughter to tag along.

"It's becoming a family tradition," Picardo said.

Plus, as a Darlington native, she loves coming to the raceway. It only feels natural to support such a historic venue, she said.

"We just want to utilize our hometown," Picardo added.

Freedom Fest each year winds down with a fire-



Caleb Thayer lights sparklers at the third annual Freedom Fest.

works display — and it's pyrotechnic display. Loud bursts illuminated the faces of those gathered at Darlington Raceway in a final celebration of the nation's birthday.

Pee Dee residents offer thoughts on the state of the States

BY JAKE CROUSE
Morning News
jcrouse@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Independence

one American against another and issues like abortion and gun rights drawing lines in the sand, it can make one wonder what America is today.

than a political existence," she said. "Our cultural experience and history binds us beyond our differences."

Those differences are a key

tunity to invoke a sense of pride in everyone for being a world citizen, not just an American citizen," he said. "We have a greater purpose than preserving our

through acceptance of immigrants from all over the world, but that many fail to grasp that understanding today.

"All of our ancestors at one

POLITICS

Lineups for GOP, Democratic conventions to be 'far different' 4A



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

CDC says flu nasal spray vaccine for 2016-17 season doesn't work 5B



TUESDAY JULY 5 2016

75¢

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TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTONPartly cloudy
91°/78° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

S.C. JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Added prosecutors could speed up trials

Legislature OK'd funds for more prosecutors

Previous cash distribution left prosecutors with caseloads as high as 945

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
The (Columbia) State

South Carolina's criminal justice system will see changes in the coming months, as millions of dollars the Legislature approved to help lighten unmanageable prosecutor caseloads start to trickle into judicial circuits.

The Legislature approved \$7.8 million in this year's state

budget with the goal of adding an estimated 104 prosecutors statewide. The cash is expected to lower the burden on prosecutors, especially in poorer and rural districts, where the workload discrepancy is stark.

Marion County, for example — largely rural and wedged between Florence and Horry counties — had one prosecutor with 933 cases when the S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination made its budget

How busy are people who prosecute cases?

S.C. average caseload: 376

Estimated new average: 280

request to the Legislature earlier this year.

Kershaw prosecutors tackled as many as 517 cases, while Richland County prosecutors had an average of 231. Though both counties belong to the Fifth Judicial Circuit, they differ in affluence and how much each can contribute to hire prosecutors.

SEE JUDICIAL, 8A



WORLD

SECURITY UPPED AFTER BOMBING

The death toll from the truck bombing at a bustling Baghdad commercial street increases to 157 and is likely to rise. 6A

Freedom's salute



JOSH MITCHELL / jsm@islandpacket.com

Lowcountry celebrates July 4

ABOVE: Onlookers at Coligny Beach on Hilton Head Island salute a C-17 transport plane from Charleston Air Force Base during the annual Salute from the Shore on Monday.

RIGHT: (From left) Campbell, 4; Lilly, 3; Josephine, 5; and Patterson, 5, are all-in during the Bluffton 4th of July



NATION

4TH OFFICER TO STAND TRIAL

Lt. Brian Rice, the highest-ranking officer charged in the death of Freddie Gray, will go to trial this week. A hearing opens today. 5A



SPORTS

RECOVERING HER BALANCE

After slipping on the court during a light rain

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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North Aiken's Young Men, Ladies visit Fort Gordon
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Philadelphia Phillies hand Atlanta Braves loss 8-2
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Tips for taking time off from digital devices
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Kevin Durant leaves OKC for Golden State
Sports, 1B

Post 26 teams begin playoff tournament
Sports, 1B

AREA DEATHS

Floyd George Cummings, North Augusta
Daphne Crowder Scarborough, Charlotte, North Carolina
Margaret R. Wingard, Lexington
George R. Cato, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Aiken sees benefit in farmers market app



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

Several area residents arrive early Saturday morning to buy fresh produce and other goods at the Aiken County Farmers Market. SCDHEC has

Application helps residents find local markets

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
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When the Aiken County Farmers Market opens, it's not unusual to see it full of shoppers, most who arrive early to buy fresh, local foods and goods.

Often, a conversation from the farmer who harvested the produce follows. It's an experience many residents like Lisa Stewart prefer — supporting local and eating fresh.

Stewart, of Aiken, had a bag full of tomatoes, corn and okra in hand at the market Saturday. She attends almost every Saturday with okra in mind, but will walk out with anything from corn to watermelon, tomatoes or any other fruit or vegetable that looks appetizing.

"Some of this stuff was just picked yesterday or just picked this morning. You get it right off of the farm, which to me, makes it taste better and probably has more nutrients if it's not on a truck for four days when you get it," she said.

Residents and travelers now have another option to find farmers and roadside markets through a web-based app recently launched by The S.C. Department of Environmental Control.

The app provides an interactive map for people to find fresh produce and, for farmer Greg Stephens, it's just as convenient.



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

Fresh produce like tomatoes, eggplant and corn await shoppers at the Aiken County Farmers Market. The farmers market is one of several shoppers can locate on an interactive map in an app launched by S.C. DHEC last month.

This past week, Stephens, who operates Tigerberry Farms in Aiken, was out of town and

stumbled upon the app scrolling through his smartphone in the airport.

"I thought, 'This is pretty cool.' It shows where all the roadside stands are and where all the farmers markets are, and it's pretty handy," Stephens said.

He and his wife, Jane, have been harvesting blueberries at their farm on Talatha Church Road for around nine years. They are among dozens of farmers who harvest their produce late in the evening or early in the morning to bring them fresh to the county's farmers market.

The market is just as beneficial for the consumer as it is for the farmer, according to Stephens.

"It's great for us," he said, "because at this point, we're just growing blueberries. You have so much traffic here. People are just wanting fruits and vegetables, and they're also looking for something different."

"Next door, you have people that have vegetables that are very unusual that aren't something you can just get in a grocery store. Then, they can come here and have all locally grown produce."

Providing residents easier access to the produce is helpful to the entire community, according to DHEC.

Please see MARKET, Page 10A

Concert series features Preston and Weston



BY THOMAS GARDINER
tgardiner@aikenstandard.com

The Hoplands Gardens concert series continued Monday evening, even after a change of venue.

The City of Aiken Parks, Recreation and Tourism announced through social media that the concert had to be moved into the H. Odell Weeks Activities Center due to the high heat index. Audience

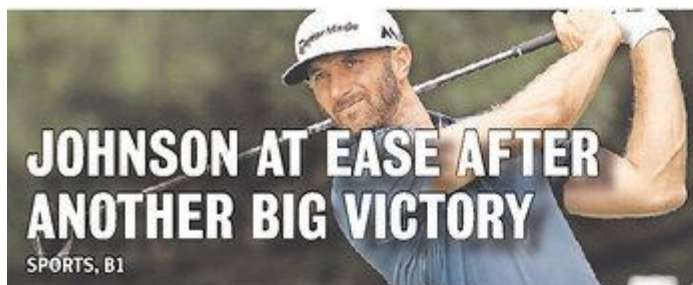
ing vocalist Sandra Simmons.

"We are happy they moved it indoors," said Christine Williams.

Williams had come with a number of her neighbors.

One of them, Dianne Parks, said, "We are just neighbors looking to come out to a family event. We came to enjoy the show."

The musicians are known for their jazz and classic R&B styles and have been



JOHNSON AT EASE AFTER ANOTHER BIG VICTORY

SPORTS, B1



YOUTH'S FILMS ABOUT HIGHLAND FEATURED

UPSTATE, C1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, July 5, 2016



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TODAY WED THU



92°/72° 92°/72° 94°/76°

Complete forecast, B6

CAMPAIGN 2016



Obama to promote Clinton in Charlotte

They've been bitter rivals, allies and colleagues. When they take the stage at their first joint campaign appearance today in Charlotte, President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton will show off a new phase in their storied relationship: co-dependents. **A3**

NATION/WORLD



Death toll in Baghdad bombing hits 157

As the death toll from the weekend truck bombing in Baghdad climbed to 157, Iraq's embattled prime minister ordered new security measures. **A5**

SPORTS

American Legion playoffs begin today

From Memorial Day to the Fourth of July, they battled for position in the American Legion baseball playoffs. Now they battle for survival as the postseason begins today. **B1**

IN BRIEF

Chestnut downs record 70 hot dogs

DIVIDED AMERICA | TOWN AND COUNTRY

Offering different realities

By Nicholas Riccardi
The Associated Press

ROCKY FORD, Colo. — Peggy Sheahan's rural Otero County is steadily losing population. Middle-class jobs vanished years ago as pickling and packing plants closed. She's had to cut back on her business repairing broken windshields to help nurse her husband after a series of farm accidents, culminating in his breaking his neck falling from a bale of hay.

Editor's note

This story is part of Divided America, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

She collects newspaper clippings on stabbings and killings in the area — one woman's body was found in a field near Sheahan's farm — as heroin use rises. "We are so worse off, it's

SEE REALITIES, A6



An antique store is shown on an intersection June 30 in Rocky Ford, Colo., in Otero County. Rural areas have been especially slow to recover from the Great Recession that began in 2008. **BRENNAN LINSLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

RED, WHITE & BOOM

20-minute rush

Fireworks crew feels adrenaline while entertaining on holiday

By Chris Lavender
chris.lavender@shj.com

More than 700 fireworks lit up the night sky over Barnet Park during the annual Red, White & Boom celebration Monday.

The 20-minute Zambelli-produced fireworks show capped off the night's entertainment, which included performances by the Spartanburg Community Band and Nashville recording artist Adam Craig. Spartanburg vocalist Maggie Thompson sang the national anthem. American Legion Post 28 began the program with the presentation of colors.

Based on Silver Hill Street between Liberty and Converse, 10 crew members from Table Rock Pyrotechnics launched fireworks between 300 and 500 feet into the air shortly after 9:30 p.m.

SEE FIREWORKS, A6

Fireworks facts

300 feet: Minimum height firework shells travel
500 feet: Maximum height fire-



INDEX-JOURNAL

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TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016

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HAPPY & HOT HOLIDAY

GREENWOOD

Capital sales tax question gets first look from County Council

By ADAM BENSON

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After months of deliberation, the fate of a November referendum that would ask voters whether to spend \$72 million on 27 projects rests in the hands of Greenwood County Council.

On Monday, the body will give preliminary consideration to an ordinance that, if approved, will place a question on general election ballots seeking to add 1 percentage point to sales tax across Greenwood County to finance the plan. The Council can only vote for or against placing the referendum on the November ballot and can not modify it.

On June 20, the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission presented its recommendation on the final slate of applications, ending a months-long process that cut down an original list of 54 to the 27 now up for consideration.

"The commission wanted to make sure we included projects that impacted as much of Greenwood County as possible," chairman David Tompkins said. "Some projects are extremely important for the growth and sustainability of Greenwood County. Quality of life projects, such as improving parks and recreation facilities, are important for our current citizens and helps attract and retain people to work and live in Greenwood County."

Among them is \$6.09 million for the construction of a manufacturing center on the campus of Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, \$14.2 million for the implementation of a fire service master plan that calls

See TAX, page 4A



PHOTOS BY KATIE PEARSON | INDEX JOURNAL

TOP: One of the golf carts decorated in red, white and blue in the Stoney Point Fourth of July Parade Monday morning played music as two children danced on a small boat being pulled behind it. **BOTTOM:** People set up their tents, chairs and umbrellas to relax and beat the heat at the Ware Shoals Fourth of July Celebration Monday afternoon.

People celebrate Fourth despite the scorching heat

By KATIE PEARSON
kpearson@indexjournal.com

After a weekend in the heat, listening to live music, participating in hot dog eating contests and watching fireworks, many still turned out for Independence

Day celebrations across the Lakelands.

Stoney Point started out with its annual Fourth of July parade, which it has put on for more than 20 years. The parade opened with two airplanes flying overhead.

See HEAT, page 1A



Emerald High grad triumphs through hardships

By ARIEL GILREATH
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This fall, Julian Assele will attend Yale University after graduating from Emerald High School. Assele received offers from several Ivy League schools — Brown University, Cornell University — but just four years ago, before he considered applying to some of the top schools in the nation, he lived at Connie Maxwell Children's Home with no clear plans on his future — or even where he would live next.

Growing up, Assele never stayed in one place for very long. He lived in a one-bedroom apartment with his mother in Miami, Florida as a child before moving to Nashville, Tennessee and eventually South Carolina — all the while, shifting from apart-

ment to homelessness — I've seen family members in the grips of addiction, trying to get out of it," Assele said.

When Assele was in fifth grade, his mother got in a car accident and he went to live with relatives in a farmhouse before the Department of Social Services rescinded his mother's custody and took him to an emergency children's home in Greenwood.

From there, he stayed at Connie Maxwell the duration of his sixth-through eighth-grade years.

One of Assele's cottage parents at Connie Maxwell, Betty Carroll, said Assele never got in trouble and stayed in his room reading all day while he lived there.

"I knew then that this kid had something, and I think the passion for his books — Julian was able to come with that motivation from his



the Sumter ITEM

NATION

Division between rural, urban areas increasing

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Study IDs most dangerous roads

5 Sumter intersections on list; results will be used to make area safer

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
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Five intersections and the major corridors in Sumter were recently identified as locations with the highest crash rates for drivers.

The purpose of the study was to identify problem areas to make changes to reduce the number of wrecks and fatal collisions.

The study by South Carolina Department of Transportation monitored roadways and driver conditions within the Sumter Urban Area Transportation Study boundary and reported 170 fatal and single-incident wrecks between 2011 and 2014.

The top five intersections with high crash rates include North Main Street

and Old Whites Mill Road, Broad Street and Patriot Parkway, Thomas Sumter Highway and Frierson Road, Pinewood Road and McCrays Mill Road and Alice Drive and West Westmark Boulevard.

During the study, those five intersections were the locations of 51 wrecks, 24 percent of all intersection collisions in the SUATS system.

North Main Street and Old Whites Mill Road, the only intersection of the five that does not have signal lights,

was the location of 8 percent of wrecks, while the other four intersections accounted for 4 percent of crashes each, said Allan Yu, Sumter Planning Department transportation manager.

Of the 2,011 intersections in the SUATS boundary, only 8 percent have signals, according to Yu's summary of the SCDOT report.

According to DOT's report, 35 percent

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New director of local senior services wants to 'give back'

BY IVY MOORE
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It took a while, but Dana Strock has found a career path that fulfills several of her greatest wishes. The new executive director of Sumter Senior Services talked about those wishes and how they make her new position ideal on Thursday, when she'd been on the job just short of two weeks.

A daughter of Margaret and (stepfather) Harold Hodge of Sumter and Ray Strock of Santee, Strock said, "I've been living away from my family for almost 17 years, and I was looking for a way to get back home. Family is the most important thing to me."

In Sumter, she's living near her parents and siblings as well as her young nieces and nephew, whom she's looking forward to "watching ... grow up."

The opportunity to work almost exclusively with the older population was another aspect of the job that attracted Strock.

"I was partially raised by my grandmother," she said. "Grandma was a huge influence on my life. I remember at 4 or 5 trying to teach my granny to read. She lived in a rural area, where there were limited services. She did have home health services, but my mom had to do a lot. She had to find resources, be sure she qualified."

Strock, 40, received her undergraduate degree from Coker College and her master's degree in criminal justice from University of South Carolina. She most recently

Perfect vantage point



Ministry helps find answers for the needy

BY JIM HILLEY
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It can never be said enough that many Sumter United Ministries clients simply do not know what to do next.

Such was the case of a senior woman who went to the Crisis Relief Ministry offices with a big problem — her

HVAC system did not work properly.

The Crisis Relief Ministry does not have a program to repair HVAC systems, but the ministry provides window units for those who demonstrate a medical necessity for air conditioning. This client was a retiree with significant health issues complicated by hot air (as verified by her physician).

After a few questions, Kevin Howell, crisis relief director, found out that a church had performed some work on her unit in the previous year.

"For many of us, a phone call to whoever performed the work would have been a logical first step," Howell said, "but for our clients, it is often not so clear."

A United Ministries volunteer placed a phone call and received a warm response and thorough explanation of the work performed on the client's unit. The volunteer was able to fully explain to the client what was wrong with the HVAC system and that it needed a complete replacement.

"The questions were answered, which really helped her," Howell said. "Clarity dis-

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