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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, September 17, 2014

SC Front Pages – Wednesday, September 17, 2014



Hot sauce creator aims to shake up market
FOOD, D1

Wojcik, C of C settle for \$400,000
SPORTS, C1



The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

Will parking throw wrench in city biking?

Police chief seeks to extend limits on where riders leave wheels



PAUL COBLENCE/STAFF

Wesley Jacobsen unchains his bike Tuesday along upper King Street. Jacobsen said he doesn't mind parking in the designated areas, but finds it hard to find spots on Saturday nights.

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

Nobody is surprised when they have to circle the block a few times to find a place to park a car downtown on a weekend night. But soon more bicyclists could be joining drivers in the hunt for parking.

Wesley Jacobsen, a bicyclist who had locked his bike to one of the racks provided by the city on upper King Street on Tuesday afternoon, said an ordinance requiring



Poll
Should Charleston City Council extend the bike parking ban on King Street to the area south of Calhoun Street? Find this story at postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

bicyclists to park in bike racks isn't a problem most of the time. "But it's hard to find a place on a Saturday night," he said.

Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen said a one-year pilot program that prohibits people from locking their bikes to trees, signs and parking meters along the narrow sidewalks on upper King Street between Calhoun and Spring streets has been so successful he's asking City Council to extend it from Calhoun Street south to the Market.

Mullen said the sidewalks are more open on upper King Street since the ban was put in place. And the city

If you go

WHAT: A presentation by mobility expert Gabe Klein on how to improve public transportation, parking and pedestrian access on the peninsula.

WHEN: 6 p.m. Monday
WHERE: The Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting St.

Please see **PARKING**, Page A4

Stabber unlikely to ever go free

Women's attacker blamed rejection

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

A serial stabber is likely to spend the rest of his life behind bars for murder after starting out cutting women in North Charleston in the 1970s.

Lucius Crawford, 61, was sentenced Tuesday to 25 years to life for fatally stabbing Tonya Simmons, 41, in his Mount Vernon, N.Y., apartment in December 2012.



Police went to Crawford's apartment to ask him about the stabbing. new DNA evidence that linked him to the deaths of two women in 1993. They found Simmons' body in his bed. She was dead of multiple stab wounds to the chest.

"I have a demon inside me and I just

Please see **STABBER**, Page A4

U.S. troops to help in Ebola fight

Obama orders 3,000 to W. Africa

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
and JIM KUHNEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama declared Tuesday that the Ebola epidemic in West Africa could threaten security around the world, and he ordered 3,000 U.S. military personnel to the region in emergency aid muscle for a crisis spiraling out of control.

The question was whether the aid would be enough and was coming in time. An ominous World Health Organization forecast said that with so many people now spreading the virus, the number of Ebola cases could start doubling every three weeks.

"If the outbreak is not stopped now, we could be looking at hundreds of thousands of people affected, with profound economic, political and

Please see **EBOLA**, Page A8

Christie, Haley bring political flavor to Moe's

N.J. governor endorses GOP friend while launching strategic S.C. visit in Charleston

BY SCHUYLER KROFF
skroff@postandcourier.com

It may have been a burrito restaurant, but it also may become known as the place where Chris Christie's South Carolina presidential run began.

The New Jersey governor's first speculative trip of the 2016 presidential season in South Carolina was a 25-minute stop at Moe's Southwest Grill in downtown Charleston, where he fended off talk of a White House run in favor of endorsing Gov. Nikki Haley's re-election.

"She's done an extraordinary job," Christie said. "She's been a great friend and partner to me personally

and the work we're doing for the Republican Governors Association." Christie is the RGA chairman.

Political watchers say it was logical that Christie, who is considered among the mainstays in the likely GOP field, picked Charleston for his first stop into South Carolina as opposed to another part of the state.

"Political campaigns are incredibly organized," said College of Charleston political scientist Jordan Ragusa. "I don't think it's an accident that Christie's first stop is in Charleston, where he's likely to find a higher volume of moderate Republicans."

Please see **CHRISTIE**, Page A5



WADE SPENCER/STAFF

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, chairman of the Republican Governors Association, and South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley attracted a crowd Tuesday afternoon at Moe's Southwest Grill on King Street in downtown Charleston.



Chance of storms. High 87, Low 67. Complete 5-day forecast, **B12**

Bridge — B11 Crosswords — B10/65 Obituaries — B4
Business — B2 Editorials — A12 Sports — C1
Classifieds — E1 Food — D1 Television — B8
Comics — B10/11 Movies — B9 The South — B1

Charleston Deals today

Big Work Fitness Factory
New opening — Half off one-month membership at Big Work Fitness Factory. See A2

LIFESTYLE, 1D
FOOD SHOW
 Alton Brown to mix it up on stage

METRO, 3A
 Men testify
 in student
 slaying case

The Greenville News

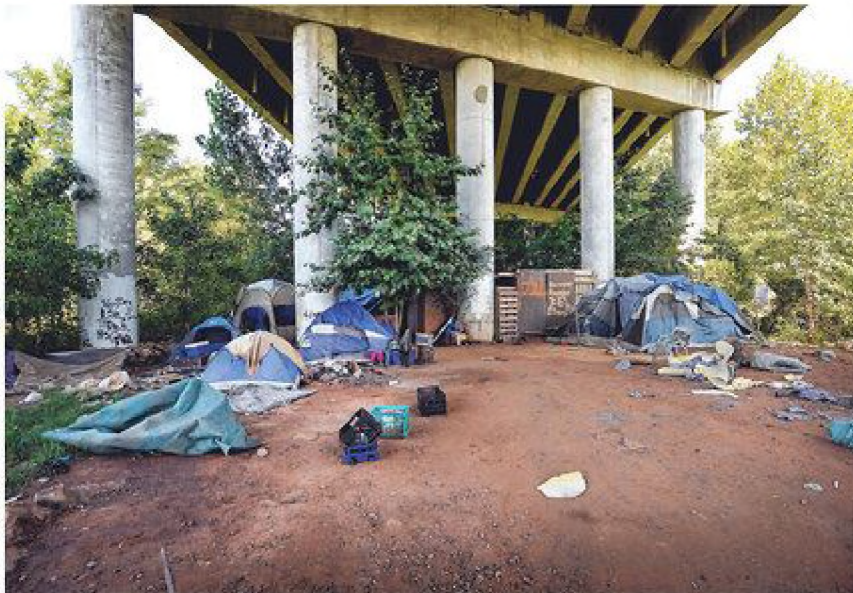
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USA TODAY GENERAL OPENS DOOR TO USING GROUND TROOPS IN IRAQ **PAGE 1B**

FINAL EDITION

TENT CITY IS SHUT DOWN



With the exception of a few, most residents have removed themselves from Greenville's Tent City, a homeless encampment started seven or eight years ago. Tuesday was the deadline to leave.

MYKAL MCELLOWNEY/STAFF

Homeless people ordered to leave camp

By Lyn Riddle
 Staff Writer
lriddle@greenvillenews.com

A gray striped cat skittered beside some carpet squares amid the rubble of what's left of Tent City.

Mounds of garbage, one bigger than a transfer trailer truck, rested near the embankment to the railroad track that separates the two sides of the encampment that has come to symbolize homelessness in Greenville County.

Tents, a dozen or more in varying degrees of disrepair, held clothes, mattresses, books. Shoes everywhere. Empty whiskey bottles and beer cans. Unopened cans of vegetables and soup on a makeshift shelf.

Tent City under the Pete Hollis bridge and just outside the Greenville city limits once held a hundred or more homeless men and women.

Tuesday was the deadline for them to get out or face arrest.

Greenville County has leased the property from the state of South Carolina and is



Clanton Wayne Tomlin Jr. packs up the rest of his belongings before leaving.

MYKAL MCELLOWNEY/STAFF



"I feel like crying. People like us with no income, there's no place to go."

DONNA BUTTS

Some of Tent City's residents have moved to area shelters.

Senators tell DSS to boost its staff

Agency admits it already has 41 vacant positions in child welfare

By Tim Smith
 Staff Writer
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — A frustrated panel of senators is giving the state's child welfare agency two weeks to come up with a plan to hire more caseworkers so that caseloads at the agency can be cut.

But there are questions about whether the state Department of Social Services has the ability to hire many workers before next year. DSS officials confirmed Tuesday that the agency already has 41 vacant child welfare positions and one of the agency's harshest critics admitted it might be hard to quickly hire hundreds of additional workers.

The unanimous vote Tuesday came after the panel's ninth public hearing on DSS in which senators expressed their displeasure with the agency's high caseloads and caseworker turnover, describing them as a "crisis."

The panel had planned to ask DSS officials questions about the recent deaths of five Lexington County children whose father faces murder charges but announced they would delay such questioning because law enforcement officials told them their investigation is ongoing.

Even without the questioning, the deaths seemed to create a sense of urgency on the part of the senators to do something to prevent high caseloads from contributing to a child's death.

See DSS, Page 11A

Dems critical of Benghazi panel probe

Republicans aren't exploring any new issues, House members say

By Mary Troyan
 Gannett Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Democrats on a special House committee looking into the 2012 terrorist attack in Benghazi said on the eve of the panel's first public hearing that Republicans are plowing no new ground in the investigation.

Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the committee's vice chairman, also announced Tuesday that Democrats have created a new website displaying all previous reports, transcripts and documents on Benghazi produced by 13 congressional hearings, several independent investigations and 50 briefings.

"We don't want to be going over things that

FIVE FROM THE FIELD

Muscadines fixed five ways are in the spotlight this week. Page D1



Ron Morris: Dabo Swinney says there is no QB controversy for Tigers, just a 'very, very good situation.' Page C1



The State

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

CASE OF 5 SLAIN CHILDREN More details may be released

Autopsy results still weeks away, officials caution

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

Lexington County Sheriff Lewis McCarty indicated Tuesday he could well make public limited facts about how five children were killed — at the right time, and only after consulting with prosecutors and Coroner Earl Wells.

With rampant speculation in the Midlands and across the country about the

circumstances surrounding the children's deaths, McCarty stressed he will make public only information that is "documented and factual" and will not interfere with the prosecution. The children's father, Timothy Ray Jones, 32, has been charged with five counts of murder.

The sheriff also made clear that final autopsy findings — in which the medical cause of death likely will be determined — still are about four weeks away. Once

INSIDE

Should autopsies be public information? B6

McCarty has those findings, he said he will consult with Solicitor Donnie Myers and Wells on what, if any, information to make public.

Preliminary results of autopsies performed earlier this week on the children — Elaine Marie, 1; Gabriel, 2; Nahtahn, 6; Elias, 7; and Merah Gracie, 8 — "show

SEE CHILDREN PAGE A6

'KIND OF AN OUTLAW THING TO DO'



Carl and Shannon Monday operate Dark Water Distillery in Camden.

By DAWN HINSHAW
dhinshaw@thestate.com

MOONSHINE BY DAYLIGHT

It's legal now, but the industry still enjoys its shady past

THESTATE.COM

View a photo gallery and video with this story.

Moonshine has gone legit. Since South Carolina began taxing small distilleries in 2009, allowing entrepreneurs to make legal moonshine, 28 companies have registered with the S.C. Department of Revenue — some using recipes handed down by ancestors.

But despite the sheen of commercialization, there are still secretive moonshiners in the woods of South Carolina, people who cook batches of the high-alcohol brew at the risk of being

28: Companies that have registered with the S.C. Department of Revenue to make moonshine.

\$5,000: Cost of a two-year license to open a micro-distillery.

125,000: Maximum number of cases allowed under two-year license.

\$25: Cost of quart of moonshine.

SEE MOONSHINE PAGE A8

DSS' 'front line' faulted

State senators urge troubled agency to hire more caseworkers quickly

By JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

S.C. senators told the state's child-welfare agency Tuesday to push now — not in July — to hire more workers to reduce the heavy caseloads that critics say have put S.C. children at risk.

State Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, asked the S.C. Department of Social Services to take two weeks to devise a plan to hire more caseworkers as soon as possible — citing a Richland County caseworker with more than 100 children to look after.

"All they're doing is pushing paperwork," Lourie said of the agency's overloaded caseworkers. "The problem is on the front line with the caseworkers."

In July, Social Services' leaders said they plan to request 202 new caseworkers and supervisors in next year's state budget at a cost of about \$10 million. Amber Gillum, the agency's acting director, said Tuesday the agency will look into what it can do more quickly.

However, the agency has been unable to fill vacancies that already have been approved. Fifty new caseworkers were approved for the fiscal year that started July 1, and the agency had 41 vacancies as of Sept. 15.

But the senators said Social Services should not wait 30 months to see if the General Assembly approves new positions, another three months to post the positions and more time to train employees and get them into the field. Instead,



Lourie

SEE DSS PAGE A9

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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Brooks expected in court



BY TEDDY KULMALA
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Compass Academy co-founder Jay Brooks is expected to appear in court Thursday.

Brooks, who faces criminal charges and a host of civil suits, is expected to go before a judge at 10 a.m. Thursday in the main courtroom of the Aiken County Judicial Center.

Brooks was arrested in July 2013 on one

count of securities fraud, but a grand jury returned indictments on forgery and a violation of the Securities Act in addition to securities fraud.

The warrant for Brooks' arrest last year alleges that he took investment money for a fictional entity called the Charles Howell Trust, but instead of investing it, converted the funds for his personal use.

Brooks was released from jail shortly after his arrest, when his \$500,000 bond was reduced to \$100,000, and was allowed to go

with his family to Texas.

The S.C. Attorney General's Office in May filed a motion for bond revocation on allegations that Brooks told a 72-year-old woman from Denton County, Texas, that he would roll over more than \$10,000 of her money into an IRA, but he instead cashed the check and converted the money to personal use.

Texas authorities have since withdrawn the charges against Brooks because he reportedly paid the victim off, officials

have said.

The company that handled Brooks' bond last year filed an affidavit indicating that Brooks checked in with the company when he was supposed to and "has done everything that we have asked him to do." Brooks has remained in the Aiken County detention center since June.

The criminal case against Brooks is slated for trial next month.

Please see **BROOKS**, Page 12A

SETTING UP SHOP

Officials: Process of opening a business in City improving



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

Residents enjoy one of the many businesses located downtown Aiken.

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Aiken City Council and the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce must reawaken and re-engage the general public and business community about what is needed for business growth and job creation, Chamber President and CEO David Jameson said.

In May, USC Aiken business professors Clifton Jones and Sanela Porec presented their Regional Economic Benchmarking Report for Aiken County, which revealed blunt facts about the decline of Aiken's growth and future economy, and that a negative growth rate for the County is a real possibility.

The report was funded by the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership.

"That study, and the kind of news it shared—I really think it probably jolted some people awake," Aiken Planning

Commission Chairwoman Liz Stewart said. "I don't know how it couldn't have. I definitely believe it increased awareness that we probably need to shift a little bit."

Jameson said Planning Commission and Council have taken positive steps in the right direction by tweaking some rules, but more may be needed to make Aiken more business-friendly.

"The culture within the city government is changing," Jameson said. "We must move from an attitude of 'no' to business growth to an attitude of, 'How can I help your business be successful?' That type of shift in philosophy

has to be driven by the City Council and embraced by City employees. Many of the employees already are on board, but feel their hands are tied because of rules and regulations that are in place."

Will Williams, the CEO and president of the Economic Development Partnership, agreed that the City of Aiken is working hard to get the process of developing a business streamlined, and staff are making good first strides.

"I think any time you have a work in progress, trying to make that progress is good," Williams said. "It looks to me like the City is continuing to do that. When a developer comes into town, they want to have a one-stop shop, so being able to have rules and guidelines that are easily found is helpful."

Please see **BUSINESS**, Page 16A



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

School Board members Tad Barber, left, and Levi Green will make presentation on Thursday at community meetings offering information on the local option sales tax proposal.

Board to hold sales tax option meetings

BY ROB NOVIT
novit@aikenstandard.com

The two ballot questions on a local option sales tax proposal won't be easy for Aiken County voters to decipher at the polls during the November general election.

That's just one of the things that Aiken County School Board members hope to clarify during a series of community communication meetings that begin Thursday.

Residents are invited to attend a meeting at the H. Odell Weeks Activities Center at 6:30 p.m. that night. The presenter will be Board member Tad Barber. Two other Board members—Vice Chairman Levi Green and Richard Hazen—will hold a similar meeting at the New Ellenton Community Center at 7 p.m. Additional meetings will resume on Sept. 25.

The Board of Education is asking voters to support a one percent sales tax increase—providing new revenue for new school construction in the school district. At the activities center, Hazen will provide information about the proposal through a slide show and then answer questions.

The ballot questions are as follows: One will ask voters to agree to adding one cent per dollar to the existing sales tax rate of seven cents per dollar. The other will seek voter approval to issue general obligation bonds to be used to finance new or renovated facilities.

The formal questions as required are confusing, Hazen said. Such referendum questions cannot have explanations within a polling place. "It's a challenge," Hazen said. "There are no Reader's Digest versions. We just want people to understand

AREA DEATHS

Geraldine Ruth Larson Scott, Aiken
Kimberly D. Riner, Warnerville
Martin Herbert Kiser, Columbia
Mary Elizabeth Felder, Salley
Samuel D. Cook Jr., North Augusta
Willie L. Ware, North Augusta
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

INSIDE TODAY



Former Rebel Hammond making



Braves' new stadium



The Beaufort Gazette

WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2014

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2012 FATAL SHOOTING ON ST. HELENA ISLAND

Witnesses testify on Morgan trial's 2nd day

Accounts point to multiple shooters at 'Poot's Shop' nightclub

By LAURA OBERLE
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843-706-8169

A St. Helena Island man who was at an island nightclub when a deadly gunfight broke out in June 2012 said Tuesday he saw Lucas Miles Morgan fire the first shot.

Joe Nathan Pope, 64, who testified during the second day of Morgan's trial at the Beaufort County Courthouse, said shots were fired outside the club following an argument between two



Lucas Morgan

rival groups. While Morgan fired first, Pope said, he wasn't the only one shooting.

Morgan faces two counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder in connection with the shooting that left two dead — Dante Kendall Bailey and Morgan's brother, Michael Douglas Morgan — and two wounded.

While many details remained un-

FOLLOW ONLINE

For reporter Laura Oberle's live tweets from the trial go to <http://bit.ly/1piwkrb>.



clear as the prosecution presented its case Tuesday, one thing appears certain: Multiple guns were fired multiple

times by multiple people.

Investigators found the parking lot of the nightclub on Toomer Road littered with spent shell casings. Five projectiles were found inside the nightclub. Bullet holes were found in the vehicles of two witnesses and in the window of a nearby home.

'SPRAYING BULLETS'

The evening of June 20, 2012, was a busy Wednesday night at the Midnight Soul Patrol, known to locals as "Poot's Shop." There was dancing, drinking and friends catching up with friends.

"In the beginning, everything was

fine," St. Helena Island resident Magnum Smalls testified Tuesday.

It did not stay that way.

Sgt. Adam Zsamar, an investigator with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, testified that the incident started as an argument between two St. Helena communities: Land's End and Dulamo Road. Witnesses testified the groups have a history of discord.

Zsamar described St. Helena as a family-oriented place where everyone knows everyone. He said the Land's End community on the south end of

Please see TRIAL on 11A

RBC HERITAGE
PRESENTED BY BOEING

Tourney adds \$96M to economy, report finds

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

The 2014 RBC Heritage Presented by Boeing may have had some weather troubles, but the rain in April didn't douse the tournament's economic impact.

Hilton Head Island's annual PGA Tour event added about \$96.142 million to the local economy, according to a survey and study completed by Clemson University's International Institute for Tourism Research and Development.

ONLINE

• For documents about the economic impact study, go to bit.ly/1BK20yc.
• For video, go to <http://bit.ly/10hd12N>.



The Heritage Classic Foundation announced the results at a news conference Tuesday at Plantation Golf Club in Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island.

The economic

Please see TOURNEY on 11A

IN PORT ROYAL

rain dance



THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

Payton Stuberg, 16, of Beaufort kicks water toward Isaiah Jones, 13, also of Beaufort, after a rainstorm Tuesday near the town of Port Royal skate park.

WAR ON TERROR

Officials: Long fight expected against ISIL

Two defense leaders address a Senate committee, sharing their outlook on the president's combat strategy against the Islamic State.

By NANCY A. YOUSSEF
McClatchy Washington Bureau

FUNDING REQUEST

The Obama administration has sought \$500 million in funding for the U.S. military to train 5,000 Syrian rebels to fight against Islamic

they said. There's no certainty a U.S.-trained Syrian force will choose to fight the Islamic State ahead of the government of President Bashar Assad, they said.

Indeed, the chances of success are far less in Syria than in Iraq, Dempsey said, as Hagel nodded in agreement. "Five

SC Republicans skeptical of Obama's combat plan

By ALI WATKINS
McClatchy Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — South Carolina's Republican delegation is skeptical of the president's plan

military logistics for the administration's ISIS strategy will be decided in the Palmetto State.

But despite an apparent consensus among lawmakers that some-



Valkyries on the move

Marsha Gibbs Field House to be dedicated at Converse College today C1

Herald-Journal

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IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Look, no hands

Computer-driven cars have been testing their skills on California roads for more than four years — but until now, the Department of Motor Vehicles wasn't sure just how many were rolling around. Now they're required to be registered and are issued testing permits. **PAGE C6**

Troops a possibility

Top U.S. military leaders say American ground troops might be needed in the Middle East if airstrikes alone can't contain Islamic extremists. **PAGE A3**

Security worries

HealthCare.gov, the health insurance website serving more than 5 million Americans, has significant security flaws, investigators say. **PAGE A10**

No controversy

Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney says there is no quarterback controversy between senior starter Cliff Stoudt and freshman phenom Deshaun Watson, calling it instead "a great situation." **PAGE B1**

More caseworkers

South Carolina's Department of Social Services must hire more caseworkers now to stem a child welfare crisis and not wait until legislators pass a budget next year, state senators said on Tuesday. **PAGE C4**

Committee scrutinizes SC roads

Priority: Finding money, developing plan for upgrades

By JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A special legislative committee brought together to figure out how to improve South Carolina's roads will need to find a solution that both finds more money and realigns the state's roads agency to better spend those funds, the committee chairman said Tuesday.

The 13-member bipartisan committee created by Senate and House leaders met for the first time Tuesday. Getting more money for roads has been talked about over the past few legislative sessions, but not much has been done.

Acting Speaker Jay Lucas, who helped create the committee, told its members they must act now and have proposals in place so the Legislature can act on them when they return in January.

"At the current level, all we're doing now is managing the decay of the road system in South Carolina," said Lucas, R-Hartsville.

Last year, lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley agreed to use a mix of revenue from new growth, reallocated sales taxes from vehicles and borrowing to raise an extra \$1 billion for roads over 10 years. But that is nowhere close to the \$5 billion to \$6 billion a coalition of business groups has said is needed just for the most critical projects in the state.

The Department of Transportation recently updated its long-term transportation plan, saying it needs \$42 billion in additional money to meet all its needs by 2040.

Committee chairman Gary ♦ SEE ROADS PAGE A6

Simrill said the panel will consider all ideas, including raising the state's 16-cent-a-gallon gas tax, unchanged since 1987. But he said that can't be the only solution to raising more money. He said the state needs to at least consider issuing bonds and raising some fees and other measures. He also touted the success of a sales tax on roads in his home in York County, which has been approved three different times by voters wanting to improve roads in one of the state's fastest growing areas near

ALONZO THOMPSON OF THE SPARTANBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



New chief dedicated to 'making a difference'

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

Alonzo Thompson vividly recalls traveling to Spartanburg for the very first time, unsure of what his first impression would be.

He remembers driving down Highway 9, passing Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, driving along North Church Street, cruising around Wofford College and eventually rounding the corner into Morgan Square. The city center captivated him.

Sunlight beamed down, downtown shoppers walked about, others sat down for a quick meal. A fountain gushed water into the air.

It was nearly a made-for-TV moment — his wife described him standing and looking around in a circular pattern — and the rest was history.

"I'm home," he said. "That two-block area pretty much sold me to this city."

The veteran policeman's transition from assistant chief of the Winston-Salem Police Department in North Carolina to chief of the Spartanburg Police Department isn't just another stepping stone for him.

"It's the fulfillment of a life's work," the 54-year-old said. "To finally be in a position to truly impact people's lives and make a difference."



This article is from the Fall 2014 edition of Spartanburg Magazine, available Thursday at Barnes & Noble, the Herald-Journal office and other locations.

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

County delays discussion on compensation study

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

Concerns over process, outcomes and future revenue have several Greenwood County Council members concerned about moving ahead with the study produced by Management Advisory Group Inc.

At Greenwood County Council's Tuesday evening, councilman Steve Brown — as he has at several prior meetings — voiced his apprehension at using the figures provided by the 219-page study.

Brown said he chose a similar position for peer counties provided by the South Carolina Association of Counties and compared the minimum salary to the minimum called for under the compensation study.

"The average minimum pay for those counties is \$51,639," Brown said. "If we adopt the recommendations from the compensation study, our minimum would be \$73,000."

The study was originally commissioned in 2013 to afford council the opportunity to adjust its salaries and benefits to a competitive level based on an analysis of salaries compared to

similar job descriptions both within the county and in other, similar-sized counties.

But Brown said, as several council members nodded in agreement, the figures provided by the study could lock the county into pay increases it couldn't afford for the long-term.

"Some of our people need an increase, their salaries are not competitive," Brown said. "But it shouldn't be that drastically that far off. It ought not to be \$22,000 or \$23,000 off."

County Council Chairman Mark Allison voiced his concern when he began comparing figures from the

study to other counties.

"If I'm looking at it right, we're going to be paying salaries which are significantly higher than any other county that we are similar to, in comparison," Allison said.

Brown said funding the recommended pay increases over the long term should be a concern.

"The recommendation was to pay for it out of surplus money from paying off the debt," Brown said. "Once that money is exhausted you've got to generate new money to pay for that. ... Do we want to promise (county employees) something that we can't

afford in three years?"

Greenwood County Manager Toby Chappell said Management Advisory Group Inc. was paid \$48,700 for three services for the county.

"We contracted with them to provide us a compensation study, new job descriptions for our employees and provide us with a new evaluation system," Chappell said previously.

Tuesday's wrangling over the compensation study led to the postponement of action to revise the study. Action could be, following further discussion, taken at the Oct. 7 meeting of council.

■ PLANT CLOSED

Georg Fischer Central Plastics of Abbeville forced to close

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

Georg Fischer Central Plastics' Abbeville production facility closed for business on Monday, displacing 17 local workers. Steve Bowles, development services director for Abbeville County, said Tuesday.

The piping components manufacturer took over Independent Pipe Products Inc. in May 2012.

Although profitable, the plant could not sustain sales to keep the plant running. Its machines will be moved to its Dallas production facility, which currently has some large, unused space.

"I've contacted a few of the surrounding industries that I know are in hiring mode," Bowles said Tuesday.

The 17 displaced workers will be meeting with rapid response workers and a couple of local employers for which they will be able to submit resumes.

"I expect the 17 displaced employees will be offered positions fairly quickly," Bowles said.

As far as economic impact, Bowles said the county does not expect any impact for this fiscal year. Next year, only the personal property of Georg Fischer leaving the plant will affect tax revenue.

"We're assessing what that revenue hit will be, but it will still be less than the growth we're experiencing in other industries," Bowles said.

The county does not expect a substantial hit in real property tax revenue.

Calls to Rocky Wade, head of business unit North America for Georg Fischer, were not returned Tuesday evening.



High above Greenwood workers conduct maintenance on top of the CPW tower off of Reynolds Street Tuesday evening.

MADRY JONES | INDEX JOURNAL

Ten at the Top summit promotes collaboration and coordination

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

GREENVILLE — Beaches are replaced by riverbeds, sand is replaced by red clay, and the ocean by lakes.

The Lowcountry has a stronghold on the state's largest industry — tourism. However, the Upstate is becoming a manufacturing, business and tourism hot spot.

In one of the fastest-growing regions in the country — the 10 counties that make up the Upstate — have been individually and system-

atically rebuilding the many downtowns, suburbs and rural areas that once served as the

backbone of South Carolina's economy.

Ten at the Top, a nonprofit focused on the future success of the Upstate's 10 counties, aims to achieve that success in a collaborative, coordinated and cooperative effort.

No more going at it alone. The organization, incorporated under its current name in 2009 with its roots dating to 2005, hosted a regional summit on Tuesday at the TD Convention Center in Greenville.

More than 800 leaders from various businesses and organizations across the region attended the event focused

on "Re-checking Our Reality" which discussed the status of the region past, present and future, while focusing on the concept of regionalism.

"If we all do well in the Upstate, it'll be a better place to live," Anderson Mayor Terence Roberts said during the opening panel discussion on the value of regionalism.

His example of regionalism was the Greenville Drive minor league baseball team, the city's Class A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox.

"People say we need a baseball team in Anderson, and I say, 'We do. The Greenville Drive. Just drive 30 minutes

up the road, and they're a regional baseball team,'" Roberts said to laughter.

Dean Hybl, executive director of Ten at the Top, presented the current state and future growth of the region, which will see significant growth in population through 2030, and is included in one of 10 megaregions in the U.S.

The megaregion could eventually span from Raleigh, North Carolina, to Birmingham, Alabama, encompassing the Upstate.

Five breakout sessions were available to attendees, including sustainable growth, community vibrancy, economic

and entrepreneurial vitality, human potential, and natural beauty and resources.

The sustainable growth session focused on creating a culture that values living and growing in a sustainable manner, maintaining roads and promoting other transportation enhancements, and implementing approaches to govern land use and development.

People were asked to approach these three issues individually with their own ideas by uploading them digitally or placing sticky notes on the wall under each topic.

See **SUMMIT**, page 4A

Committee promises comprehensive SC road fix

By JEFFREY COLLINS
jcollins@indexjournal.com

but not much has been done. Action Sneaker Day Trusts

lion for roads over 10 years. But that is nowhere close to

only solution to raising more money. He said the state needs

But the committee acknowledged just raising more

has been on the job for four months, as well as several

the Sumter ITEM

FOOD

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Now you're a little safer in Sumter

City installs lightning
prediction systems

BY JADE REYNOLDS
jade@theitem.com

The City of Sumter has new emergency warning devices at two locations.

Crews installed Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System on Tuesday at the Aquatics Center, 1115 S. Lafayette Drive, and Palmetto Tennis Center, 400 Theatre Drive.

"The mayor (Joe McElveen) and councilman (Charlie) Burns use those facilities a lot, and they were concerned about public safety," said Shelley Kile, city communications director. "In South Carolina, we have a very extensive storm season, and they wanted to make sure everyone is protected. Sometimes lightning comes up whether or not it looks like it will."

Sensors measure and analyze the electrostatic fields in the atmosphere, and if lightning is predicted in a 3-mile radius, the system activates with a 15-second horn blast and strobe lights. Upon hearing the warning, park users must leave the park and seek appropriate shelter.

The system will continue to check every 30 seconds for the potential energy necessary for a lightning strike. The horn will stop, but the strobe lights will continue until the situation is clear.

"To signal you can go back in the park and come out of shelter, there will be three short, 5-second blasts," Kile said.

The devices will be aimed at the parks, but depending on the weather and atmospheric conditions, the siren sound will be audible for up to three-quarters of a mile, she said.

"We want to make sure the public is aware because when they go off, that can be a pretty loud sound,"



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Mitch Price from Thor Guard installs a lightning prediction system on top of the Aquatics Center on Tuesday afternoon. The system will alert swimmers to inclement weather before lightning begins to strike. The City of Sumter also had the same device installed at the Palmetto Tennis Center with players' safety in mind.

SEE LIGHTNING, PAGE A10

Lawmakers want input on House's operations

Smith, Weeks will review rules,
standards, transparency as part
of their roles on new committee

BY JOE KEPLER
joe@theitem.com

A pair of Sumter legislators in the South Carolina House of Representatives has been appointed to a new committee formed Monday.

The 17-member group, formed under acting House Speaker Jay Lucas, aims to provide self-examination and new changes to the way the House operates. This comes on the heels of House Speaker Bobby Harrell's indictment on nine counts that vary from using campaign funds for personal use to false campaign reporting.

State Rep. Murrell Smith, R-Sumter, was appointed the chairman of the newly created Special House Rules & Procedures Review Committee. State Rep. David Weeks, D-Sumter, will also sit on the committee.

The group will look at the day-to-day goings-on of the House and its rules in their current form, hold open-forum meetings with the public and consider feedback from House members and the public to increase transparency and accountability.

"This is a difficult and turbulent time for the House, but it's an opportunity for the House to examine how the House operates," said Smith, who also serves on the Ethics and Ways and Means committees. "These rules have been in effect for a long, long time, and it's time for us to have a top-to-bottom review."

Among the items to be considered that Smith said he will pursue are new standards for term limits for the House speaker and limiting hiring and firing powers to allow committee chairmen to appoint their own staff.

In gathering members of the staff, Lucas conferred with Smith to select a diverse group of voices.



SMITH



WEEKS

SEE HOUSE, PAGE A10

SLED chief testifies agents need access to records

Keel says despite new rulings, documents are
necessary for investigating S.C. child deaths

BY MEG KINNARD
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's top cop asked legisla-

agents who investigate child deaths continue to have access to records such as autopsy reports and birth certificates, saying he hopes a re-

change that.

"There is no higher mission than the protection of our children," State Law Enforcement Division Chief Mark Keel told a special Senate panel Tuesday. "This is paramount to the department's ability to continue to fulfill its

Keel testified before the Senate's Freedom of Information Act Study Committee. During its first meeting, the panel discussed the effects of two recent rulings that deal with interpreting the state's FOI law.

In July, the state Supreme

medical records and therefore fall under privacy provisions of the open records law.

The Sumter Item newspaper had sued Sumter County Coroner Harvin Bullock because he refused to release the autopsy report of 25-year-old



STATEMENT GAME

Tigers out for respect against top-ranked Florida State. C1

FIT FOR FALL: Seasonal 2014 home decor is an ensemble production. **B1**

ON THE HUNT: Police search for survivalist charged in Pa. trooper killing. **D1**

Oconee council declines tax drop

'I don't like this, but I'm going to have to go along with it, because basically our financial backs are against the wall.'

Wayne McCall
District 3 Oconee County councilman

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County Council voted down a chance to lower taxes by nearly two mills despite auditor Ken Nix's assurances both the county and school district's budgets would have still been fully funded. Nix said earlier this month he could have proposed a two-mill decrease if not for an assessment shortfall in Duke Energy's property,

and given the chance, he followed through in council chambers Tuesday night. But like the one-mill increase Nix proposed two weeks earlier, council again shot down his revised proposal — after an amended assessment of Duke's Oconee Nuclear Station — for a 1.9-mill decrease. In light of Duke's amended assessment that reduced the shortfall in its taxable value from \$9.5 million to \$2.5 million, Nix proposed council

lower the total mills to 213.1 for tax year 2014. For perspective, Nix's proposed decrease would have saved the owner of a \$100,000 residential property \$3.20 in property taxes this year and a non-residential property owner \$11.40. But the vote to maintain the millage was unanimous, and Oconee's total millage will remain at 215, with 141.1 going to the School District

SEE TAX DROP, PAGE A6



DEK BROWN | THE JOURNAL

Three men who have already pleaded guilty in the case testified Tuesday that they were with Lester Devaria Mosley Jr. when he fired the shot that killed a Clemson University student in December 2012.

ANOTHER BLACK EYE

Slight improvement in violence against women numbers still 'appalling' for SC

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

First, the good news. South Carolina no longer leads the nation in the rate of women murdered by men, now at 2.06 per 100,000. Now, the bad news. South

Carolina only dropped one spot to No. 2, and this year marks the 17th consecutive year the state has ranked in the top 10 states in the category. This year's report is for 2012, the most recent year in

SEE VIOLENCE, PAGE A6

Ramsey, Daltons recount Clemson student's killing

Associates testify against murder suspect Mosley

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

PICKENS — Day two of the murder trial of Lester Devaria Mosley Jr. saw the three men who allegedly invaded a Central apartment complex with him recount the events they say led to Mosley firing the gun that killed Clemson University student Steven Grieb.

Kadeem Ramsey and brothers Jaron and Jordan Dalton, who all accepted plea deals on voluntary manslaughter and other charges in the case, told jurors Tuesday they traveled to Chimney Ridge Apartments on Smoke Rise Drive for the purpose of seeking and stealing marijuana. Ramsey and Jordan Dalton were friends and classmates at Daniel High School. On the afternoon of Dec. 8, 2012, Ramsey told jurors, he received a



West Union works quickly to hire police chief

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

WEST UNION — The Town

John Bowen of the Westminster Police Department accepted the position after

fellow officer Austin Watson — the only two officers on the force — last week, West Union began the search to

Johnson said though Bowen may be the right man for the job, he was not comfortable filling the position so quickly and





HOME SWEET HOME The Suggs family moves into Habitat for Humanity house. **Page 3A**

Morning News

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mainly cloudy, a couple of thunderstorms, high 84, low 63

DETAILS 2A

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County sues West Florence Fire, state

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Florence County and County Council has filed another lawsuit questioning the constitutionality of the West Florence Fire special-purpose district. This lawsuit names the district, members of its newly

elected commission and the state of South Carolina.

The county filed its lawsuit Tuesday morning in the 12th Circuit Court of Common Pleas in Florence. This comes after a similar lawsuit was filed in the state Supreme Court by the county and council June 21. It named the county elections commission, auditor and treasurer as they were charged with implementing aspects of the newly created district.

On Aug. 6, the state high court justices denied the county's request for original jurisdiction, but said it could pursue the matter in the lower courts. That decision dealt a blow to the county as it attempted to get an injunction against the special-purpose

district before the election of the district's commission board Sept. 2, and before tax notices go out in October.

Another dimension was added to the original lawsuit since an appeal was filed by lawyer Jay Jordan on behalf of John C. Floyd and Rebecca Crawford against the county's ordinance dissolving the rural fire districts in order

to merge them into one on May 30.

That appeal was then heard by Judge J.C. Nicholson Jr. in Charleston on Aug. 14, who questioned the credibility of the case against the county. Another hearing was scheduled for late September, but Jordan pulled

See **COUNTY**, Page 7A

Sabb wins SC Senate 32 seat runoff

BY CHRISTOPHER MCKAGEN
Morning News
cmckagen@florencenews.com

KINGSTREE — Rep. Ronnie Sabb, D-101, won the Democratic Primary runoff for South Carolina's 32nd District on Tuesday night by 58.7 percent of the vote over Williamsburg County Councilman Sam Floyd.

With the victory, Sabb's name will be the only one to appear on the ballot for November's general election, as there were no Republican candidates, and he will likely become the state's newest senator.

Sabb won all five districts in the county — Williamsburg, Georgetown, Florence, Horry and Berkeley — en route to garnering 9,640 votes to Floyd's 6,770, unofficially. Provisional and fall-safe ballots will be added Thursday morning and results will be certified.

Sabb could not be reached for comment following the election, but said earlier Tuesday he would be hosting a "Thank You" event Tuesday night for all the people who helped his campaign.

Floyd thanked his supporters and said he looks forward to a working relationship with Sabb.

"I'm just real proud of the efforts of my campaign team for running a

very clean, positive race," he said. "And I look forward to working with Sen. Sabb as a Williamsburg County councilman to enhance the lifestyles of the citizens of District 32, and Williamsburg County in particular."

After the general election, a special election would be held in early 2015 to fill Sabb's House seat, which represents most of Williamsburg County and a bit of Clarendon County.

On possibly seeking the vacant House seat, Floyd did not rule it out.

"We'll weigh our options and go from there," he

said. Unofficially, 16,410 voters cast ballots in the runoff Tuesday, a noticeable increase from the 14,245 votes cast in the Sept. 2 primary. Floyd took the most votes in the primary, while Cezar McKnight and S.C. Rep. Carl Anderson fell short of making the runoff.

In a public conference held in Kingstree after the primary, McKnight, who lost the 2012 primary to now-Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill by 81 votes, asked his supporters to give their loyalty to Sabb.

During that news conference, Sabb asked the people of District 32 to unify for the good of the area.

See **RUNOFF**, Page 7A

HEADS IN THE GAME



PHOTOS BY VASELY CONROY/MORNING NEWS



Ethan Schaeffer rests his glove on his head while playing shortstop.

Michael Wheeler (left) plays around with Zachary Bradshaw in their dugout during a game. The 9- and 10-year-olds on ACE Construction (sky blue) and Urquhart Plumbing (royal blue) faced off against each other in their first game of the season Tuesday night at Greenwood Park. For more photos, see Kids@Play in today's Sports section.



Pitcher Joseph Perkins jogs off the field after getting out of a tough inning.

Timrod Park neighborhood looks at action plan

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

in downtown Florence, where just days before residents from declining neighborhoods in the northern areas of Florence lis-

has been years in the making as a way to ensure that their neighborhood remains vibrant.

Alicia Connelly, president of

tenance codes. We need stricter enforcement on things. It's a great area to live. They do (want stricter enforcement), and I was

tenance codes and stormwater

issues.

Neighborhood resident and avid runner Phillip Lookadoo



Odd

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

100

OBJECTS
IN 100 DAYS

DAY 94

A2 and
TheTandD.comA10
MIXING IT UP FOR
ROSH HASHANASwinney: Tigers
don't believe they
are big underdogs

SPORTS, B1

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | 4 SECTIONS, 50 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 260

Desegregation order lifted on Calhoun County schools

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

After 48 years, the Calhoun County Public School District is no longer under a desegregation order.

Superintendent Dr. Steve Wilson reported Tuesday afternoon that U.S. District Judge Michelle Childs has issued a unitary ruling for the district, which means it's operating with a single school system for all students.

A number of years ago, the unitary system replaced the "dual" racially-based school system that was common in the 1960s. However, various operations of the district have remained under the desegregation order and the supervision of the U.S. Justice Department.

Wilson said more information will be released about the change Wednesday.

The first step in the district's becoming a unitary school system took

place in February when the Justice Department agreed that the district is now unitary based on its assessment of student assignment, faculty assignment, staff assignment, transportation, extracurricular activities and facilities, Wilson said at that time.

The board of trustees passed a resolution declaring the district unitary on Feb. 24. The resolution was sent to the federal district court for the District of South Carolina and to the U.S.

Department of Justice.

Child's decision was the final step in rescinding the original desegregation order for the district.

Wilson said earlier that the case began in 1966 when the United States instituted a school desegregation suit against Calhoun County School District Two stating that it violated the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education case, which declared separate schools for blacks and whites unconstitutional.

According to Wilson, U.S. District Judge Robert W. Hemphill issued, in August 1970, a desegregation order establishing attendance zones and specifying ways to ensure black and white children would learn together.

The federal desegregation order has remained in force since that time, Wilson said.

Contact the writer: dlinder-altman@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5529.

GETTIN' THE GATORS



SPECIAL TO THE T&D
Jonathan Smith holds an 11-foot, 1-inch gator Saturday with the assistance of Tracie Stabler and Joe Mattei. Alligator hunting season began this weekend.

Two beasts pulled from Lake Marion as alligator hunting season begins

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

Alligator season opened at noon Saturday. By Sunday afternoon, Jonathan Smith had helped clients pull two of the creatures — one 11 feet, 1 inch and the other 12 feet, 2 inches long — out of Lake Marion.

Because of their size, Smith estimated they were probably between 80 and 90 years old. One was found

second, he said.

It's fairly simple to catch a gator, according to Smith.

"You ride them until they wear out," he said.

The real work comes in when the gator gives out and you have to tie him to the boat, Smith said. One gator weighed about 400 pounds and the other was about 550 pounds, so it was no easy task to pull either one in, he said.



Man facing felony DUI in fatal crash

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

A Neeses man has been charged with driving drunk in a June crash that caused the death of his passenger.

Joseph Dyches, 28, was in court Tuesday for a bond hearing after he was charged with felony driving under the influence involving death.

Orangeburg County Magistrate Rob Clariday set bond on the Middle Willow Road man at \$75,000 surety.

"It carries up to 25 years," Clariday informed Dyches.

Clariday further ordered that should Dyches make bond, he is to be under GPS monitoring.

S.C. Highway Patrol Cpl. Charlie Davis told the court Dyches wasn't supposed to be driving when the fatal crash happened. Davis said Dyches' driver's license was suspended at the time.

According to investigators, Dyches and 25-year-old Justin Brown were traveling on Bonnette Road at 3 a.m. on June 14 when their 2000 Chevrolet Blazer left the roadway and overturned, ejecting both men.

The Orangeburg County Coroner's Office said Brown died of blunt force trauma as a result of the wreck. Dyches was airlifted to a Columbia hospital to be treated for injuries.

A blood alcohol level test indicated Dyches was at .11, above the state limit of .08, according to a warrant.

Betsy Brown, Brown's mother, told the court she has gone through heartache since that June night.

"Nobody knows what it's like to lose a child," she said.

"I am sorry," Clariday said, "from the bottom of my heart."

Dyches initially attempted to speak but was overcome with emotion. He eventually gathered himself enough to apologize.

"I messed up," he said. "I didn't mean to kill him."

Contact the writer: 803-533-5516 and rwalker@timesanddemocrat.com. Follow Walker on Twitter at @RWalkerTimesD.



Dyches

DSS needs better facility, employees say

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN better facility?" she asked

Brian Symmes

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