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The Post and Courier

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Wednesday, August 3, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Deadly amoeba infects Edisto swimmer

S.C. resident being treated in Charleston suffers from brain-eating amoeba found in freshwater

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
lsausser@postandcourier.com

A South Carolina resident contracted a potentially deadly brain-eating amoeba after swimming in the Edisto River in Charleston County last month.

Late Tuesday, a spokeswoman for

Medical University Hospital would not reveal the status of the patient. A lab test conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that the individual suffers from an infection brought on by *Naegleria fowleri*, commonly called the "brain-eating" amoeba. The infection is usually fatal.

"It is difficult to treat," said Linda Bell, an epidemiologist for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. "And it's rapidly progressive."

Bell stressed that the amoeba is widespread. It is typically found in freshwater during warm summer months, but she said that human infections are

rare because contamination may only occur "if pressure is high enough" and when the amoeba passes through the nasal cavity into the brain. Bell said an anatomical defect in some individuals may allow water to pass into the brain more easily.

DHEC spokesman Jim Beasley advised swimmers to pinch their noses

before jumping into freshwater or to wear nose clips. He said swimmers should avoid submersion in freshwater.

Beasley said the state health department will not restrict swimming near Martin's Landing in the Edisto River.

Please see AMOEB, Page A6

"It's difficult to know that someone is out there and knows something and isn't saying anything. She deserves better. She deserves answers."

Sarah Jordan, sister of 24-year-old hit-and-run victim Whitney Jordan.

A heartbreaking loss

Family, friends remember Alley chef who died after hit-and-run



"To wake up and be told the saddest thing you'll ever hear and then to see all the love people had for her," said Sarah Jordan (center, with their father Douglas Jordan) at a celebration of the life of her sister, Whitney, at The Alley on Tuesday.

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON
mboughton@postandcourier.com

Whitney Jordan's unexpected death has left her friends and family reeling and searching for answers.

The 24-year-old died Thursday after a hit-and-run on Blake Street. Charleston police are still investigating the incident and have asked for the public's help to identify the vehicle or driver involved. In the meantime, Jordan's loved ones are left trying to process their loss.

"The fact that there are so many question marks

surrounding her death is disheartening," said Sarah Jordan of her little sister. "It's difficult to know that someone is out there and knows something and isn't saying anything. She deserves better. She deserves answers."

She was at The Alley on Columbus Street with family and friends to honor her sister's life. The gathering drew by about 200 people, and there were tears, but there were more smiles — which is exactly the way Jordan would have wanted it, they said.

Please see JORDAN, Page A7



Whitney Jordan is seen with her mother Sheila Jordan in a photo displayed Tuesday at The Alley, where she worked.

Slager defense: Witnesses harassed

Attorney seeking info alleges prosecution threatened two men

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

A defense attorney on Tuesday said members of the team prosecuting former North Charleston police officer Michael Slager intimidated two witnesses in the fatal shooting of Walter Scott.

The witnesses stood in a downtown Charleston courtroom during a hearing in which a judge weighed various issues that must be resolved before Slager's murder trial. The attorney, Andy Savage, identified them as brothers who signed affidavits alleging harassment by federal and state investigators and members of the 9th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

How the men were involved with the case was not clear, but Savage said they had been threatened and told "they better not be talking" to the defense team.

The accusation, which Solicitor Scarlett Wilson denied, was aired as an argument against Wilson's refusal to give up identifying information for witnesses. Wilson had cited a national problem with supporters of criminal defendants using the data to discourage witnesses from cooperating with authorities. Though she alleged no such issue in Slager's case, the prosecutor had argued that she was bound by state law to guard the information.

"If there is harassment going on... it's not on the part of the defense," Savage said Tuesday. "It's on the part of some members of the prosecution. ... To say we are not entitled to [the information] because of some national

Please see SLAGER, Page A6

Obama slams Trump as 'unfit' to be president

BY JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a searing



Inside



LOCAL

'Top of chain' heroin supplier facing life

BY ANGIE JACKSON
ajackson@postandcourier.com

A heroin trafficker who was exposed



ring distributed was equivalent to more than 33,000 bags or doses of the drug.



TIM DOMINICK / dominick@thestate.com
Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney speaks with the media before the Tigers held their first fall practice of the season Tuesday.

Dabo's new goal: 'Win the closer'

BY MATT CONNOLLY
mconnolly@thestate.com

CLEMSON

Clemson opened fall camp on Tuesday, and for the first time under coach Dabo Swinney, most of the Tigers know what it takes to play for a national title.

There is an unquestionable sense of confidence around the defending ACC champions, who are expected to again compete for the conference title and national championship.

"The biggest thing is just the experience," Dabo Swinney said of what this team has as compared with

MORE INSIDE

Clemson WR Mike Williams begins his comeback. 1B

others in the past. "It's one thing to dream about something. It's another thing to experience it. It's one thing to think you're good enough. It's another thing to know you are."

Swinney spoke to a record crowd of media members before the first day of fall practice and was as enthusiastic as ever to get the season started.

He said there was no hangover effect this offseason from coming so

close to winning the national title. Instead, Swinney believes the Tigers are as hungry as ever to get the season started.

"They've had a sense of urgency from day one that has not changed. It has not changed from anything we've done. I've never had to say, 'Hey, let's go.' When I walk into the meetings, they're ready. They've had a sense of urgency all summer," he said. "They've had, maybe, a little different edge to them. Early on I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but then I just think this is a group that's got a different experience to draw

SEE SWINNEY, 7A

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3 2016

\$1.00

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TODAY: MOSTLY CLOUDY; T-STORM CHANCE 90% 10-24
YESTERDAY: H: 94 L: 75 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.04"
FORECAST, 10C

The State

7 INDICTED IN FRAUD SCHEME

Government bilked of \$350M

BY JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

Federal prosecutors have indicted five men, two women and two corporations, alleging they illegally won government contracts worth some \$350 million by misrepresenting themselves as straw companies controlled by either low-income men and women or disabled veterans.

Most of the seven are from

Federal prosecutors say seven defendants, two companies falsified their eligibility for government construction contracts.

the Columbia area.

An 18-count indictment in the case charges that Thomas Brock, 49, of Camden; Jerry Eddins, 66, of Aspermont, Texas; Harry Michael White, 65, of Columbia; Cory J. Adams, 43, of Columbia; Tory Brock, 51, of Camden; Alfonza McCutchen Jr., 39, of Irmo; and Allison Amanda Sauls, 46, of New York, N.Y., secretly set up an inter-

locking set of businesses and conspired to defraud the federal government by falsifying their eligibility to get government contracts.

The conspirators also identified, created and recruited "businesses owned by qualifying minorities, women, veterans and disabled veterans" and "hid their roles in the companies from the Small Business Admin-

istration and the Veterans Administration," the indictment states.

"The defendants hid the fact that construction companies were not controlled by minorities, veterans, women or the disabled in order to receive the lucrative contracts," a news release from the U.S. Attorney's office in Columbia said.

The indictment made no mention of where the construction work was done or what kind of construction it was.

However, three sources familiar with the charges said that the construction projects took place both in and out of South Carolina, involved military and civil projects, including at least one project at the Savannah River Site. The projects were completed and were eligible for public money.

The conspiracy began in 2002 and lasted for years, the indictment states. Most of the

SEE FRAUD, 6A

'One of the worst'

Once in 200 years? Monday-night deluge and floods wash away the odds



MATT WILSON / mwill@thestate.com
Lindsay Brown mops water from her store, High Life in Five Points, after flash flooding hit Columbia on Monday night. More than two dozen Five Points businesses took on water.



PALMETTO

GROWN HERE: COOKING WITH HISTORY

Meet South Carolina's four chef ambassadors, who will bring the state's culinary history to life this month as guest chefs at the James Beard House in New York City.

MORE INSIDE

Q&A with the chefs, 1C

VIDEO

THESTATE.COM: Talking food, menus, inspiration, with the chefs



"We're excited to get going," Coach Dabo Swinney said as Clemson practice opened.

BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF

FEEL THE THRILL!

Optimism high as Tigers take to practice field

SCOTT KEEPER
SKEEPER@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

CLEMSON — On Clemson's first day of fall football camp Tuesday, coach Dabo Swinney expected to see more than 100 players on the Tigers' practice fields.

What he didn't expect to see was about half that number of media jockeying for position at his opening press conference.

"Are we supposed to have a good team or something?" Swinney said. "Y'all must be a lot of bored people this summer, ready for some football."

Swinney certainly is. Tuesday was the day he's been counting on, literally, since his team came up short against Alabama in the national championship game last Jan. 11.

"We're excited to get going," Swinney said as his team prepared for the first of its 28 scheduled practices before the Tigers open the 2016 season at Auburn on Sept. 3. "We've had a good spring and a good summer, and the next step for us is what we call prime time. That's getting back on the grass with these guys."

Anticipation is at an all-time high, and the optimism is just-

See CLEMSON, Page 4A

Follow the latest on Clemson and USC at Greenvilleonline.com.

Deshaun Watson
heads above talented
ACC QB field, 1C

Gamecocks open
camp with battle for
quarterback, 1C

Spurrier's return to
Swamp makes room
for Muschamp, 1C

Joe Erwin is honoree for Drive's 'Green Day'

ERIC CONNOR
ECONNOR@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The Greenville Drive's presence in the community is ubiquitous, whether it's the hand-operated scoreboard of the replica Green Monster towering over Fluor Field, the Reedy Rip-T mascot or the Friday night fireworks that can be heard on warm evenings across downtown.

And, of course, the Green Day T-shirts of various years past worn around town.

It was that time of year again on Tuesday — "Green Day," when the Drive organization honors community



Greenville rejected again for bus funding

RUDOLPH BELL
RBELL@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The U.S. Department of Transportation has once again rejected a request from Greenville for federal money to expand its bus system and deploy battery-powered transit buses such as those made locally by Proterra Inc.

Greenville's bus system, Greenlink, had sought more than \$13 million through the TIGER program to make a series of major improvements, in-



TROPICAL FRUITS GIVE AMBROSIA A LIFT

FOOD & HEALTH, D1



CHAPMAN GOLF STANDOUT STILL ON HOT STREAK

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, August 3, 2016



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88°/71° 83°/70° 86°/72°

Complete forecast, B6

NEWS DIGEST

Jurors to be extensively questioned

CHARLESTON — Potential jurors in the murder trial of a white former police officer charged with murder in the shooting death of a black motorist will be extensively questioned on their views about race and police conduct before being seated in the case.

Circuit Judge Clifton Newman said Tuesday the jury pool will be sent a general questionnaire about race relations and police conduct with a jury summons. They will then fill out a more specific questionnaire asking what they know about the Walter Scott case when they get to the courthouse. Defense attorney Andy Savage had made a motion asking that jurors be sent the questionnaires to express thoughts on race and police conduct without fear of public embarrassment or reprisal. The judge asked the prosecutor and defense attorneys to develop the questionnaires and submit them to the court. Former North Charleston officer Michael Slager, 33, stands trial in October for murder and faces 30 years to life if convicted in the shooting death of 50-year-old Walter Scott. — From wire reports

UPSTATE



Thrift store to open second location

A Spartanburg thrift store and coffee shop is expanding into Greenville, Revlon says.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Shootings involved officers

Two incidents 19 hours apart involved Va. murder suspect, burglary suspect

By Jeffrey Collins
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — State officials are investigating after law enforcement officers in South Carolina killed a man wanted

on a murder charge in Virginia and a man being investigated for a possible burglary in two separate shootings about 19 hours apart.

In the first shooting, a Lexington County deputy

investigating a suspicious person in a car shot and killed the driver after being hit by the vehicle about 7 a.m. Monday, a sheriff's department spokesman said.

In the second, two officers in Lake City ended up in a gun-battle about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday with a man they pulled over in a stolen car who turned out to

be wanted for murder in Danville, Virginia, interim Lake City Police Chief Jeff Johnson said.

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating both cases, which is standard practice in officer-involved shootings in South Carolina. The state has now had 28

SEE SHOOTINGS, A7

DEBUT AS A TIGER



TAX-FREE WEEKEND

Shoppers to cash in on deals

No state sales tax on clothes, electronics, school supplies

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

Shoppers across the state are likely to do the bulk of their back-to-school shopping this weekend thanks to the state sales tax holiday.

The 17th annual tax-free weekend in South Carolina starts Friday. Clothing, electronics and school supplies can all be bought without the 6 percent sales tax that normally accompanies all purchases made in the state.

Shoppers across the state are expected to save around \$2.25 million this weekend, according to the S.C. Board of Economic Advisors.

"I think this weekend gets people out shopping. When they're out shopping, it gets them out to other stores nearby, regardless of the size of the store they're shopping in," said Lindsey Kueffner, executive director of the S.C. Retail Association. "When you're talking about a 6 percent sales tax saving, that's a big deal to a lot of customers. It's the one weekend per year where brick and mortar retailers are on the same playing field as online retailers who never offer



TROPICAL FRUITS GIVE AMBROSIA A LIFT

FOOD & HEALTH, D1



CHAPMAN GOLF STANDOUT STILL ON HOT STREAK

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

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Morning News

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WEATHER**

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DETAILS 2A

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DANICA VISITS DARLINGTON

DARLINGTON

NASCAR driver Danica Patrick visited Darlington on Tuesday to promote Carolina's Kids Inc. and the Sept. 3 Bojangles' Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway. See coverage in Sports and visit scnww.com for photo galleries and videos.



NASCAR driver Danica Patrick signs an autograph for Dawson Melton, 10, during an appearance Tuesday at Darlington High School.

It's a ringer

National horseshoe event coming to Florence in 2018

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — In July of 2018, thousands of professional horseshoe players and enthusiasts from across the world will converge at the Florence Civic Center for the National Horseshoe

Pitching World Tournament.

The tournament is a two-week event and is expected to draw more than 1,200 participants from all 50 states, Canada and several other countries. It is scheduled for July 9-21, 2018.

Civic Center general manager

See **HORSESHOE**, Page 3A

Lake City

Wanted man from Virginia shot, killed by police

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
jimbibo@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — A Virginia man was shot and killed early Tuesday morning in an altercation with Lake City police during a traffic stop.



London

Officers responded to a suspicious vehicle call at approximately 1 a.m., according to interim police Chief Jeff Johnson.

After running the vehicle's tags, the vehicle came back as stolen, Johnson said.

Two officers then initiated a traffic stop with the vehicle on U.S. 52 near the Huddle House. When the car pulled over, the driver exited the vehicle and began firing at the officers.

Johnson said the officers returned fire and hit the suspect. He was transported to a Florence-area

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3A

National Night Out

'United front'

Police, community come together to prevent crime

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
jimbibo@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Florence Police Department visited various places throughout the city on Tuesday in celebration of the 33rd annual National Night Out, a day dedicated to

Pet peeves



PHOTOS BY JOE PERRY/MORNING NEWS

Dr. Allen Causey of Windsor Animal Hospital and veterinary technician Ebony Brown examine Momo on Monday at the North Bellline Drive facility that opened in January after being in a nearby location for seven years. Causey spoke Monday about pet safety at the Rotary Club of Florence meeting at Victors.



Florence vet offers advice about hot dogs, snake bites, ticks and more

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Dr. Allen Causey loves his job, loves seeing people

and Desert Storm. Causey then earned a DVM — doctor of veterinary medicine — from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. He has practiced locally for 19 years,

LOCAL

Experts: Number of whippoorwills is decreasing. Is it the heat? 3A



LOCAL

Road widening could ease commute to Savannah 3A



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3 2016

75¢

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TWITTER.COM/ISLANDPACKETHILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTONChance of storms
89°/79° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

KITTIE'S CROSSING IN BLUFFTON

New median causes worry, confusion

■ Business owners in Kittie's Crossing say they have noticed near head-on collisions and dangerous U-turns as drivers try to maneuver a raised median that seemed to pop up overnight and without warning at the entrance from Bluffton Road.

BY MADISON HOGAN
mhogan@islandpacket.com

Some business owners in the Kittie's Crossing shopping plaza in greater Bluffton say they are concerned about a new median that was built at the Bluffton Road entrance sometime last week.

The median, they say, was built without their knowledge, has created confusion among drivers and blocks full access to their businesses.

Tony Arcuri, owner of Giuseppe's Pizza and Pasta, said he noticed Friday that the existing median outside his business had been removed and a new, longer

median was now in its place.

The new median prevents some drivers from making a left into Arcuri's section of the plaza, which includes AAA Carolinas, Palm Beach Tan, Panda Chinese Restaurant and La Hacienda.

Since the change, business owners and employees say they have noticed drivers making dangerous maneuvers to bypass the median. An employee of La Hacienda even popped her tire on the curb while trying to drive

around the median, according to the restaurant's owner.

Arcuri posted video on Facebook on Monday of vehicles coming from the direction of Food Lion and Target and driving into oncoming traffic to enter Giuseppe's, nearly causing head-on collisions. Other drivers can be seen making a right out of the Giuseppe's parking lot and then trying to execute a tight U-turn around the median, which backs up traffic.

Some have even attempted to drive over the median. At least one car has become stuck doing so, according to an employee of La Hacienda.

"I was only out there for 15 minutes (taking video)," Arcuri said. "It's ridiculous."

The longer median is not the only change to this area of Bluffton Road.

SEE MEDIAN, 7A

Benefits of dental floss use unproven

■ An analysis of research found that the evidence for flossing is "weak, very unreliable," of "very low" quality, and carries "a moderate to large potential for bias."

BY JET DORN
Associated Press

HOLMDEL, N.J.

It's one of the most universal recommendations in all of public health: Floss daily to prevent gum disease and cavities.

Except there's little proof that flossing works.

Still, the federal government, dental organizations and manufacturers of floss have pushed the practice for decades. Dentists provide samples to their patients; the American Dental Association insists on its website that, "Flossing is an essential part of taking care of your teeth and gums."

The federal government has recommended flossing since 1979, first in a surgeon general's report and later in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans issued every five years. The guidelines must be based on scientific evidence, under the law.

Last year, the Associated Press asked the departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture for their evidence, and followed up with written requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

When the federal government issued its latest dietary guidelines this year, the flossing recommendation had been removed, without notice. In a letter to the AP, the government acknowledged the effectiveness of flossing had never been researched, as required.

The AP looked at the most rigorous research conducted over the past decade, focusing on 25 studies that generally compared the use of a toothbrush with the combination of toothbrushes and floss. The findings? The evidence for flossing is "weak, very unreliable," of "very low" quality, and carries "a moderate to large potential for bias."

"The majority of available studies fail to demonstrate that flossing is generally effective in plaque removal," said one review conducted last year. Another 2015 review also "found limited

FROM HILTON HEAD ISLAND



Nicole Arnold poses with her and her friends' bikes on July 10 on the Colorado-Kansas border, near Tribune, Kan.

Why a teen cyclist bikes across America ... alone

■ Nicole Arnold has braved storms, dogs and dump trucks on the TransAmerica Trail, the route that takes cyclists more than 4,200 miles from Oregon to Virginia. She set out to find herself, and

or so pounds of her, could propel the road bike — which, with four gear-stuffed panniers, was

she biked everywhere on the island. It was nothing for her to carry a case of water on one shoulder while pedaling through rain-soaked streets. She'd once managed to haul a 12-foot kayak from Spanish Wells to Indigo Run.

"People on the island tend to think I'm weird," she said. "For lots of reasons."

She doesn't have a car, she

THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Darlington County's News Leader Since 1893

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50 CENTS

scn.com

Red Foxes begin 'two-a-night' practices



Hartsville High School coach Chris Pietrzak, center, and Stephen Cotton work the linemen through an agility drill during Sunday's opening night practice.

HARTSVILLE — In South Carolina, football players have two choices — fight the heat or fight the mosquitoes. This year, they are trying to beat both.

The Red Foxes broke football camp Sunday night with what used to be a traditional "two-a-day" practice schedule, only there is a difference with practice times at 8 p.m. and midnight this season.

"When the temps are up, you have to beat the heat," said Hartsville Head Coach Jeff Calabrese. "You can go in the morning with three-hour

practices. But night time is best."

During the first evening practice Sunday, players and coaches were treated to 75-degree temps and just enough of a breeze to make the practice enjoyable.

"We need to protect the players and get the work in. We do what's best for them," Calabrese said.

With the night time schedule, the players hit the hay in the early morning hours and sleep until about 8 or 9 a.m. the next day. Breakfast and some off-field activities are in order and then back to sleep.

Players are sacked out in the fitness area and the arena.

"Sometimes, it's harder on us

coaches than the players," he said.

Calabrese still maintains some semblance of office hours, but he gets his down time, too.

Also, this was an original staff idea.

"This was our idea," he said. "We are at camp and we can control it."

"We need the players to get acclimated to the heat. So far, we've not had any hydration issues, either," he said.

The first night was a success and Calabrese is looking forward to the start of another Red Fox campaign in less than two weeks when they square off against Bennettsville in its first scrimmage.

Driver from fatal accident identified

From Staff Reports

HARTSVILLE — The 49-year-old man who died late Thursday night has been identified. He was killed when the motorcycle he was riding ran off the road and into a utility pole.

He was identified as Thomas Harold Kennington from McBee, according to the Darlington Coroner's office. The coroner's office said the cause of death was multiple body trauma.

The crash happened at 11:52 p.m. Thursday on Ruby Road, said Lance Cpl. David Jones, South Carolina Highway Patrol.

The rider was north bound on the road when his Harley-Davidson ran off the right side of the road and into the pole, Jones said.

The rider wasn't wearing a helmet, he said.

Women's League grants \$1,000 for education

Club recognizes two Hartsville teachers

From Staff Reports

HARTSVILLE — Two Hartsville teachers will be awarded \$500 grants for the upcoming school year thanks to the Women's League of Hartsville. Emily Maloney and Candice Parker will receive the funds based on grant applications submitted to the league.

See GRANTS, Page 3A



Duke Energy's Robinson Nuclear employees volunteered for a school makeover Thursday at Carolina Elementary School. More than 75 volunteers helped with the project, building a raised flower bed, improving playground safety, painting classrooms and others.

Duke Energy employees give back

BY ARDIE ARVDISON
aarvdison@hartsvillemessenger.com



It was "all hands on deck" at Carolina Elementary School on Thursday as volunteers from Duke Energy descend on the school to tackle a long list of projects suggested by school principal, Donna Barrett.

This is the fifth year, Duke Energy's Robinson Nuclear Plant has selected a local school for a makeover, said Charles Ellison, senior communications consultant at the Robin-

INSIDE

For more photos from the Duke Energy volunteer events, see Page 6A.

Suspects killed by officers

Man wanted for murder and man wanted for burglary shot by police 19 hours apart

By JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

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arate shootings about 19 hours apart. In the first shooting, a Lexington County deputy investigating a suspicious person in a car shot and killed the driver after being hit by the vehicle about 7 a.m. Monday, a sheriff's department spokesman said.

In the second, two officers in Lake City ended up in a gunbattle

about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday with a man they pulled over in a stolen car who turned out to be wanted for murder in Danville, Virginia, Interim Lake City Police Chief Jeff Johnson said.

The State Law Enforcement Division is investigating both cases, which is standard practice in officer-involved shootings in South Caro-

lina. The state has now had 28 police shootings in 2016, matching the pace of last year's 15-year high of 48.

The Lake City shooting happened on U.S. Highway 52, one of the busiest roads in the city of 7,000 people about 65 east of Columbia.

One officer noticed the stolen car, and the second officer came as back

up as they pulled the driver over, Johnson said.

The man came out of the car shooting at officers, who fired back, Johnson said. The driver died at the hospital, while the officers were not injured, the chief said.

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GRAVE ROBBERIES

Man faces charges of desecrating burial ground

By CONOR HUGHES
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An Abbeville man was arrested in connection to a church break-in where tombs were disturbed.



AARON M. REYES
Aaron Michael Reyes, 17, was arrested Monday and charged with desecration of a human burial ground, destruction or removal of human remains, malicious injury to a place of worship and second-degree burglary.

The Abbeville County Sheriff's Office received a complaint about a picture on Facebook that showed a group of people standing in Ridge Church, 62 Ridge Road, Iva, according to a report.

A deputy found several photos on Facebook of the group in the church, including one of a man standing in an above-ground tomb, the report said.

The deputy found out that several tombs in the church had been disturbed and that a pew and Christmas tree had been damaged, the report said.

The church has been broken into several times in the past year, according to Capt. Natalie Talbert with the Abbeville County Sheriff's Office.

"We're currently investigating to see if the previous break-ins are related," Talbert said.

'A PLACE TO STAY'



PHOTOS BY KATIE PEARSON / INDEX JOURNAL

From left are Ken Kelly, executive director of Pathway House; Aline Barnes, executive director of Faith Home; Bettie Rose Horne, board member of Pathway House; Denise Manley, executive director of United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties; Dr. Jack Parham, Board Chair Emeritus of Pathway House; Kit Adkins, Board Secretary of Pathway House; and Charles Lewis, friend of Pathway House bow their heads in prayer Tuesday morning over the ground that will hold the Pathway Shelter for Women and Mothers set to open in early 2017.



Bettie Rose Horne, board member of Pathway House, addresses crowd about the issues facing homeless women in Greenwood County Tuesday morning at the groundbreaking for the Pathway Shelter for Women and Mothers with Children.

Pathway House breaks ground on homeless shelter for women and children

By KATIE PEARSON
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Homeless women and children who need extended help getting back on their feet will soon have a place to go for shelter during their time of need.

The Pathway House, located at 208 Panola Ave., broke ground on the Pathway Shelter for Women and Mothers with Children Tuesday morning, the first of its kind in Greenwood County.

"There's nowhere for a woman who just needs a place to stay to go," said Ken Kelly, executive director at Pathway House.

Though women and chil-

dren have been provided emergency shelter in the past at Meg's House for domestic abuse, Bowers-Rodgers in cases of children being neglected or abused, and Salvation Army for temporary shelter, there has never been a homeless shelter in Greenwood County that offers extended assistance specifically for women and mothers of children.

Bettie Rose Horne, who has been a board member of Pathway House since the organization's beginning, said Kelly has had to turn away many women who were seeking assistance, saying there was no room for

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THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

www.thelinkpaper.com

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

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Left, Phillips Recoveries Inc. assisted the Cheraw Police Department in cleaning up the supplies used for cooking meth in a wooded area on Patsy Lane. Right, a closer look at the supplies found. The Cheraw Police Department cautions residents to avoid picking up soda bottles with straws in them as they were probably used to cook meth and could burn whoever picks them up.

Meth supplies discovered in Cheraw

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Cheraw police are asking the public for help in identifying individuals who are cooking methamphetamine in wooded areas on Patsy Lane.

An anonymous source reportedly flagged down a Chesterfield County sheriff's deputy July 25 and informed him of the illegal activity taking place inside town limits of Cheraw. The deputy searched the area and found materials that ap-

peared to have been used in the manufacturing of meth, so he contacted the Cheraw Police Department since the area was in their jurisdiction. Sgt. James Henderson lauded the source who came forward to report the illegal

activity, as well as cautioned everyone to steer clear of trash that may have been used in the cooking of methamphetamines. "Use good judgment - no, use your absolute best judgment - when picking up trash," Henderson said. "If

you see a soda bottle with a straw in it like the ones in the picture, call us. Don't pick it up. And don't pick up anything that could be a cooking vessel. If you pick up a cooking vessel and it explodes, you could get badly burned."

Cheraw Police Chief Keith Thomas said a cash reward is being offered for any information about who may have dumped these meth-making supplies. Contact the Cheraw Police Department at (843) 537-7868.



Chesterfield County congregations came together Sunday to hold a prayer rally both honoring local law enforcement as well as remembering those who were killed in recent shootings.

County honors law enforcement

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Sunday afternoon, congregations from all over Chesterfield County came together to remember law enforcement officers who were killed in Baton Rouge and Dallas recently, as well as honor local law enforcement at a prayer rally sponsored by Pastors United at Maranatha Family

Center. Pastors Donnie Driggers, Mark Davis, Darin Coleman, Allen Usher and Steve West read the names of the fallen officers, while John L. Melton, Danny Malloy and Patrick Blackmon led the worshippers in prayer. After the memorial, all law enforcement officers present received a copy of the law enforcement officer's Bible.

Following the theme of II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land," the speakers expressed appreciation to those

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Car thief found in York County

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A 27-year-old man was arrested in York County last week in connection with a string of automobile thefts, including one July 23 in Pageland.

According to a Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department report, a white four-door Acura

way 601 in Pageland. A silver 2006 Chevy Tahoe reportedly stolen in Clover was also located near an entrance of the car lot.

The report states the owner of the car lot discovered the burglary when opening for business. He found one of the buildings on the lot unsecured and noticed the drawers in the desks had been rummaged through and a lock on a safe

vehicles had been cut and all of the keys taken. One of the vehicles blocking a driveway into the lot had been moved, and an Acura was stolen.

Information about the vehicles was entered into a law enforcement database, leading to its recovery last Tuesday and the arrest of Marcellus Thomas, who is also charged with third-degree burglary, armed larceny, and multiple

Cheraw man faces charges of animal cruelty, neglect

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

A 49-year-old man from Cheraw was charged with cruelty to animals and neglect after moving to a new residence and leaving his dog behind. Officers responded to State Road after being informed of the dog being abandoned. Photos of the dog were also posted on Facebook and several concerned citizens were in the yard to check on the animal when officers arrived.

According to a Cheraw Police Department report, the dog's owner was identified as Donnie Chapman, who moved from the State Road residence several weeks ago. The dog did not



This dog was abandoned at a residence on State Road.

Police Department report, the dog's owner was identified as Donnie Chapman, who moved from the State Road residence several weeks ago. The dog did not

appear to have been cared for since Chapman's relocation. Officers made contact with Chapman and charged him with neglect.

Tax-free weekend coming up

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

The state sales tax holiday is this weekend.

From 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 5, until midnight Sunday, Aug. 7, South Carolina shoppers can purchase a number of back-to-school items tax free.

Exempt items include: adult diapers, aerobic clothing, antique clothing, aprons, athletic or sport uniforms or clothing (but not equipment such as mitts, helmets and

or disposable), baby shoes, bandanas, barrettes, bath mats, bath rugs, bath towels (all sizes, including beach towels), bath wash cloths, bathing caps, bathing suits, bathing trunks, beach capes and coats, bed comforters and bed comforter sets, bed duvets and covers, bed linens (including baby bumper pads, canopies, baby crib padding), bed skirts, box spring covers, dust ruffles, mattress pads, mattress toppers, pillow covers and shams (box springs, drapes, mattresses, table clothes,

or disposable), baby shoes, bandanas, barrettes, bath mats, bath rugs, bath towels (all sizes, including beach towels), bath wash cloths, bathing caps, bathing suits, bathing trunks, beach capes and coats, bed comforters and bed comforter sets, bed duvets and covers, bed linens (including baby bumper pads, canopies, baby crib padding), bed skirts, box spring covers, dust ruffles, mattress pads, mattress toppers, pillow covers and shams (box springs, drapes, mattresses, table clothes,

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