

LOCAL / STATE

Student suspended over threatening list

Administrators on Tuesday suspended a student at Hughes Academy of Science and Technology after a classmate discovered a list threatening fellow students, a spokeswoman for Greenville County Schools said. The list was of people the student did not like, said Officer Gilberto Franco, spokesman for the Police Department. School administrators and a school resource officer questioned the sixth-grader who made the list. The student was recommended for expulsion. Hughes Academy administrators have spoken with all of the parents whose children were on the list, said Elizabeth Brotherton, school district spokeswoman. —Romando Dixon

'Bring Change' campaign offers assistance

As part of its "Bring Change" campaign, TD Bank is lending support to the North Greenville Crisis Ministry, which offers food assistance, clothing, emergency assistance and life-skills training to the community. Funds from Bring Change will be contributed to the ministry. In addition, the TD Bank branch at 6514-B State Park Road, Travelers Rest, will collect monetary donations, as well as donations of coats and blankets, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sept. 30, to support North Greenville Crisis Ministry. —AP

Spike in Carolinas gas prices among highest

The recent spike in gasoline prices in the Carolinas because of the Colonial Pipeline spill are among the highest weekly increases in the nation. AAA Carolinas reports that because of this month's spill, average gas prices increased 7 cents per gallon in South Carolina and 5 cents a gallon in North Carolina. The pipeline leak in Alabama resulted in gasoline shortages in several southeastern states for several days. —AP

Overdose? Then jail. Community considers possibility

Horry County is considering making people who overdose on narcotics spend three days in jail. News outlets report that County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus asked Monday how the county where Myrtle Beach is located could implement such a law. Lazarus would also like a requirement that those who overdose get substance abuse treatment. County emergency personnel are equipped with Narcon, a nasal spray that resuscitates those who overdose on heroin and other narcotics. Lazarus says a law putting people in jail for overdosing wouldn't discourage them from getting medical help because they are generally unconscious and someone else calls 911. —AP

Greenville Health System fights bond transfer issue

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As Greenville Health System trustees meet today to go over the 2017 budget, officials say the hospital could see \$167 million in interest added to its bottom line if it can't move its bond debt to its new Strategic Coordinating Organization. And that could mean higher hospital rates or service and staff cuts, Mike Riordan, CEO of the SCO for GHS, told *The Greenville News*. "If we are now saddled with this increase," he said, "we can either raise rates, which impacts businesses and patients,

or reduce costs ... closing programs and cutting staff." GHS is changing its governance structure so that it can remain a public nonprofit as part of a larger private, nonprofit multi-regional health system. Under that plan, GHS leases its assets to an Upstate Affiliate Organization, which would operate existing GHS hospitals and facilities, and the SCO makes decisions about the direction of the system and has the financial responsibility. Because of that restructuring, officials want to shift \$600 million in bond debt from GHS to the SCO. The move would reclassify the bonds from from

governmental to nonprofit, Riordan said, and would not add any new debt. But failure to shift the bond debt will result in the extra \$167 million in federal interest because it would force GHS into the for-profit market, Riordan said. The measure must be approved by Gov. Nikki Haley. But some members of the Greenville County legislative delegation have objected to it, he said. "If it's not allowed, we would have to refinance it in the taxable market," Riordan said. "That objection in essence would increase the federal tax burden on bond holders and

raise the cost for GHS." Rep. Mike Burns said the transfer of the bonds to the new group would be in question if the new governance is in question. And he, along with several other legislators, filed suit in circuit court earlier this month to challenge GHS's authority to restructure. Therefore, he said, the suit brings into question GHS's ability to form that group. "I have advised the Governor's office that although it would cost GHS a taxable liability, it's far less than the \$6 billion in assets he's taking from the

See BONDS, Page 9A



PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF
The Cancer Survivors Park Alliance held a groundbreaking for Phase II of the project in the parking lot of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday.

Group breaks ground on Cancer Survivors Park

STAFF REPORT

Ground was broken Tuesday on Phase II of Greenville's Cancer Survivors Park. The first phase was a 1,000-foot long boardwalk nestled in a canopy of trees between Church and Cleveland streets. It opened in February. Phase two includes the rerouting of the Swamp Rabbit Trail to make room for park amenities, including a new bridge, a gathering space, and a 2,200-square-foot survivorship and education center, said Kay Roper, executive director of the Cancer Survivors Park Alliance. The \$7.5 million park is being built on a 6.8-acre tract of land overlooking the Reedy River. When completed, it will feature gardens with benches, a gathering space, a survivor bell with a healing tone, sculpture, a waterfall and an education center that will serve as a source of inspiration and comfort for cancer patients and their families.



Diane Gluck, Cancer Survivors Park Alliance Board President, speaks during Tuesday's event.

Plan surfaces for nuclear disposal area

SAMMY FRETWELL
AND JEFF WILKINSON
THE STATE

COLUMBIA, SC - A plan has surfaced to establish another nuclear waste disposal ground in South Carolina, a state with a history of taking atomic refuse from across the country. An organization called the Spent Fuel Reprocessing Group wants federal approval to open

a disposal area near Barnwell and the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex. Spent fuel, a type of highly radioactive waste, would be moved from the state's four nuclear power plant sites and stored indefinitely at the new facility, records show. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July received notice of the plan. The proposal is a long way from becoming re-

ality, but if eventually approved by the federal government, it would create a place for nuclear waste disposal that is likely to draw opposition. Several environmental groups said this week they are preparing to fight any effort to create what they called an atomic waste dumping ground. Politicians, including Gov. Nikki Haley, also expressed reservations Monday.

The subject of nuclear waste disposal is a touchy one in South Carolina because many people say the state has shouldered more than its share of the nuclear waste burden. South Carolina already stores highly radioactive material from around the country and world at the Savannah River Site. It also has a low-level waste dump in Barnwell County that was used for decades to bu-

ry nuclear garbage from power plants across the country. That site has leaked radioactive tritium into groundwater. Now, the government is being asked to allow a disposal site for high-level nuclear waste from power plants in South Carolina. The site would be near the Barnwell low-level waste dump, environmentalists said Monday.

See DISPOSAL, Page 5A

OCTOBER 14 - 16

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