

From: Taillon, Jeff  
To: Taillon, Jeff <JeffTaillon@gov.sc.gov>  
Date: 8/8/2013 9:17:14 AM  
Subject: S.C. Front Pages - Thursday, August 8, 2013

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**Clowney's signed items on eBay raise concern**  
SPORTS, C1



# The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

THURSDAY, August 8, 2013

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"How do you reconcile yourself to the idea that this person hired someone to kill you?"

NANCY LATHAM

## LATHAM'S FATE IN COURT'S HANDS



Nancy Latham (foreground), her two daughters, Madison (second from left) and Emily (right) and Cathy Harrell (left), wife of South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell, enter the Federal Courthouse in Charleston for a hearing for her estranged husband Chris Latham.

**Ex-banker pleads not guilty in plot to kill wife, who says ordeal has been 'heartbreaking' for family**

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

**W**hen her husband walked into the room Wednesday in a blue fishing T-shirt and faded jeans, it reminded Nancy Latham of the casual wear he favored during a family vacation to a lake house a couple of years back.

This time, however, Chris Latham's outfit was augmented by shackles and chains.

The 50-year-old former banker was hauled into U.S. District Court in Charleston to face charges that he participated in an alleged murder-for-hire plot targeting his estranged wife. He will remain in custody at least until Monday, when a formal detention hearing will be held.

Federal agents took the Sullivan Island man into custody Tuesday night while he was vacationing with friends at another lake house in Salem, and he showed up in court still wearing the rumpled clothes in which he was

### Video

For a video interview with Nancy Latham, go to [postandcourier.com/videos](http://postandcourier.com/videos).

### Inside

A timeline of the alleged plot. A6

arrested. Grim-faced and frowning, he glanced briefly at his wife and two teenage daughters, who huddled in the front row of the courtroom with family friend Cathy Harrell, wife of South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

"How do you reconcile yourself to the idea that this person hired someone to kill you?" Nancy Latham said to The Post and Courier after the hearing. "It's not by any means celebratory, and it's certainly not celebratory for my children. It has to be heartbreaking for them."

His arrest marks a stunning reversal of fortune for a man who recently com-

manded a \$683,000 annual salary as an executive for Bank of America.

Speculation about Chris Latham's involvement in the alleged plot had swirled around the community since the case broke open in April with the arrest of three suspects, one of whom happened to be his live-in girlfriend and former bank assistant. The talk grew louder after Nancy Latham filed a civil lawsuit against her husband and the jailed suspects, accusing Chris Latham of being an active participant in the scheme.

Latham and his attorneys had vocally denied the allegations and accused Nancy Latham and her legal team of bad-mouthing him with fictitious claims to ruin his name in the midst of their bitter divorce battle.

Latham had little to say during Wednesday's court hearing, in which a not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. He answered only "yes" or "no" to a magistrate judge's questions.

Please see LATHAM, Page A6

### THE PLAYERS



**Chris Latham**  
Former Bank of America executive federally indicted for his alleged involvement in an alleged plot to kill his estranged wife, Nancy.



**Nancy Latham**  
Real estate agent and state lottery official targeted in the alleged murder-for-hire scheme.



**Wendy Annette Moore**  
Identified by authorities as Chris Latham's live-in girlfriend and his former assistant at Bank of America. Faces four federal counts in connection with the alleged plot.



**Samuel Yenawine**  
Moore's ex-husband who lived in Kentucky. Indicted in the case, he killed himself in his jail cell at the Georgetown County detention center while awaiting trial.



**Russell Wilkinson**  
Yenawine's former cellmate while serving time in a Kentucky prison for unrelated charges. Yenawine recruited Wilkinson to help in the alleged plot to kill Nancy Latham, according to Wilkinson. He faces four counts.

**Rachel Palmer**  
Yenawine's girlfriend, who allegedly participated in the scheme. She faces three counts.

## School of Law, CofC merger?

Alumni fighting deal with InfiLaw

BY DIANE KNICH  
dknich@postandcourier.com

A move is under way to push for the merger of the private Charleston School of Law with the public College of Charleston, instead of allowing it to be sold to InfiLaw System, which owns three other for-profit law schools.

**Poll**  
Should the College of Charleston and the Charleston School of Law merge? Go to [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.

"I believe the Legislature would support such a merger," Goldfinch said. "It could be done tomorrow," he said, but law school founders would have to agree to it.

Law school alumni have organized to fight the possible sale of the school to InfiLaw, a move they said could diminish the value of their degrees. The school's Alumni Board met Tuesday night to begin gathering more information about

Please see MERGER, Page A7

### Coming Sunday

The College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina are exploring a merger, and legislators are gearing up to possibly file a bill to form "The University of Charleston."

## Upgrades for I-526 revealed

6 lanes, better I-26 intersection in plans

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY  
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — Plans for a \$894 million upgrade of Interstate 526 came into sharper focus on Wednesday as a top state engineer explained the project to the people who must approve it.

The I-526 work includes six-laning the 19-mile length of the four-lane highway, improving traffic flow at its congested intersection with Interstate 26 and bridge rehabilitation work, said Ron Patton, state Department of Transportation chief engineer for location and design. I-526 is among seven interstate projects

Please see I-526, Page A7



Chance of storms, High 89, Low 72. Complete 5-day forecast. B6

Bridge...128 Carsworn...D6 E11

Roberts...B6 Editorials...A12

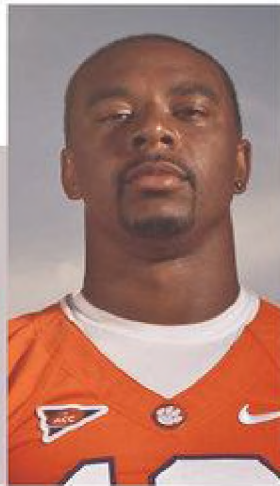
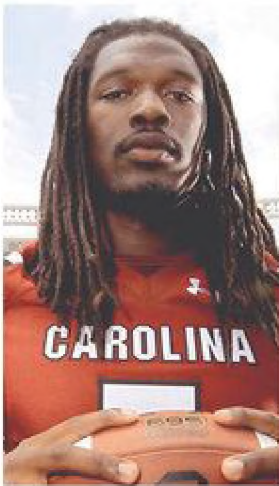
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**Charleston Deals**

**Ghosts of the South**  
Carleight Walking Tour for two for the price of one. See A2





S.C. native Andie MacDowell enjoys life outside spotlight. **D1**

## SIGN HERE, PLEASE

Schools address Clowney, Boyd autographs on eBay. **SPORTS**

# The State

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

### GREENWOOD COUNTY OUTBREAK

## DHEC on the TB hot seat Thursday

Senate to grill agency chief about slow response to disease probe and its impact on schoolchildren

#### INSIDE

A man infected with TB was the subject of an intense Midlands search. **Page B1**

By SAMMY FRETWELL  
sfretwell@thestate.com

In what is expected to be a tense hearing, state senators plan to question South Carolina's top health official Thursday about why she didn't act sooner to speed up an infectious disease investigation

near Greenwood and how the slow-moving probe affected young schoolchildren.

Catherine Templeton, director at the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, faces intense questioning during the hearing in Columbia, where upset senators say they want answers

about tuberculosis that infected more than 50 children at Ninety Six Primary School.

DHEC's performance in Greenwood County also is expected to raise broader questions about its general preparedness to handle a health crisis following events this week in Columbia. The agen-

cy drew fire Wednesday from Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott for what he said was DHEC's failure to notify him for hours after an infectious tuberculosis patient not connected to the Greenwood crisis walked away from a Co-



Templeton

SEE TB PAGE A4

#### EXCLUSIVE

## More fans to ride The COMET

Bus system hopes to double shuttle ridership to games

By CASSIE COPE  
ccope@thestate.com

Columbia's transit system is trying to attract more Gamecock football fans this season to the shuttle system that travels to and from Williams-Brice Stadium on game days.

#### INSIDE

Details on the cost, schedule and pickup points for the trip to the stadium, or about 8,000 people, to attend the games by buses, reducing game day congestion and increasing safety, said Bob Schneider, executive director of Central Midlands Transit sys-

### \$500 million

Projected amount the \$10 billion project is running below initial projections

### \$200 million

Amount a parts delay is expected to cost. Who will pay for that is still being determined.

### 200

Number of workers expected to be added to the construction site by the end of the year.



General manager Alan Torres explains some of the activity taking place on the site as work on the nuclear facility expansion continues Wednesday in Fairfield County.

## Nuke project rolling now





## SPORTS SHOWING LEADERSHIP



## LIFESTYLE Get organized for school

# The Greenville News

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THURSDAY,  
AUGUST 8, 2013  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

### METRO

Ex-banker pleads not guilty in murder-for-hire plot, 1B

FINAL EDITION K1

# OBAMA CALLS OFF PUTIN TALKS

Clashes over Snowden, Syria, Iran chill relationship

By David Jackson  
USA Today

President Barack Obama has canceled a planned private meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow amid disputes over Edward Snowden and other issues, the administration said Wednesday.

Obama still plans to attend the Group of 20 nations summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, during the first week in September.

"Following a careful review begun in July, we have reached

the conclusion that there is not enough recent progress in our bilateral agenda with Russia to hold a U.S.-Russia summit in early September," said White House press secretary Jay Carney.

Putin and the Kremlin did not provide an immediate reaction.

RIA Novosti, the Russian news agency, quoted an unnamed diplomatic source in the Kremlin as saying the invitation to Obama for a summit meeting "remains in force" should he

change his mind.

### Other meetings

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and Putin's aide, Yuri Ushakov, met with U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul on Wednesday evening, to discuss a Friday meeting involving U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and their Russian counterparts.

In recent months, the United



President Barack Obama meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 17 in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland. Obama is canceling plans to meet with Putin next month in Moscow. (EPA/VOX) **See OBAMA, Page 3A**



John Butler makes pasta for ravioli at Naked Pasta, a new business along Pendleton Street. Co-owner Julie Jenkins says as an artisan pasta shop, she felt comfortable locating in the arts district just outside of downtown. **HEIDI HELBRUN/STAFF**

### BEING MY OWN BOSS

# OUTSIDE IS IN

Entrepreneurs give new energy to hubs at downtown's edge

By Lillia Callum-Penso  
Staff writer  
lpenso@greenvilleonline.com

Ten years ago, the neighborhood along Pendleton Street was quiet, maybe even outside of the minds of most people other than those who lived there. When artists began moving in, in the early 2000s, it gave the area energy and a new name, the Pendleton Street Arts District. Yet, even in such close proximity to the thriving destination of downtown, it remained largely off the beaten path.

Today, that path is leading to Pendleton Street and other areas just outside of downtown that are making names for themselves not just as cool places to live, but as cool places



The Augusta Road Business Association held Summer on Augusta to brand the community as a destination with its own personality. Grayson Dent, center, gets a glitter tattoo in the children's area.

## Rain brings more damage

Bridge collapses in Pickens; more storms on the way

By Eric Connor  
Staff writer  
econnor@greenvilleonline.com

The rain has hit the Upstate hard yet again this week — first in the city, then in the mountains — and more is expected.

On Wednesday, three-quarters of the normal rainfall during a typical August month fell in Pickens County in one day — more than 3.5 inches — washing out another bridge, over Six Mile Creek, that will remain closed until further notice.

That came a day after Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport saw just under half of a normal August total rainfall with 1.99 inches during a six-hour early-morning span.

While Greenville was spared, with mostly drizzle Wednesday, Pickens and the mountainous areas of Greenville County were drenched under a storm system that moved

**See RAIN, Page 5A**

### INSIDE

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Horoscope	2D	Voices	6A
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High 87  
Low 72



Nature comes alive | 9A



Hook a Kid on Golf | 1B

Program sees 201 participants this year



# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, August 8, 2013

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 147, No. 220 Aiken, S.C. ★ ★ 75¢

## Investors: School plan viable

### Compass backers striving to open private school 'Belmont Academy'

BY ROB NOVIT  
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

A few months after Compass Academy's direction went south amid allegations of financial abuse from the founder, a retired couple that invested in the failed project hope they and other investors can complete construction on the existing site and open an entirely separate private school in the fall of 2014.

And they made it clear during an interview on Wednesday: Jerry and Sue Rowe said the new initiative will have no connection to Jay and Tracy Brooks, the couple that promoted Compass Academy as a new K-12 private facility. Jay Brooks was arrested and charged with securities fraud last month.

The Rowes have no intention of using the "Compass" name, they have decided to call the prospective school Belmont

Academy — a tribute to Dogwood Stables' Cio Campbell after prize horse Palace Malice won the Belmont Stakes in June.

The Rowes and other participating investors will seek their own bank financing and private investors, as well as parents interested in the new facility with a science and math emphasis.

Please see INVESTORS, Page 14A



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Jerry Rowe, his wife Sue, right, and Cynthia Hall are spearheading an effort to build a private school at the Compass Academy site, but would have no connection to Compass, an initiative that ended after encountering legal issues.

## INSIDE TODAY



Best deli sandwich in Aiken contest ends this Friday



Cutest pet contest registration form inside  
Local news, 9A



Study shows blood-sugar levels tied to dementia  
Local news, 8A

## AREA DEATHS

No new deaths  
Funeral services, 6A

## WEATHER

## Cops connect with community

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
AND MAAYAN SCHECHTER  
mschechter@aikenstandard.com  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Neither rain nor crime can keep residents of Aiken-area communities from enjoying a night out, which is what they did during Tuesday's celebrations of National Night Out.

Clearwater Village Apartments held its fourth event on Tuesday, with gray skies sprinkling showers to cool off the festivities. Hot dogs and hamburgers were provided, while the event's first deejay kept the beat going.

Kids got balloon animals made or took a dive into the bouncy house while their parents spoke with deputies from the Aiken County Sheriff's Office about crime and security.

"This is a nationwide program originally developed to foster communication between local law enforcement agencies and the citizens," said Sgt. Larry Schrade. "It's our opportunity to come out and be a little more personable with people in the neighborhoods."

The Sheriff's Office was giving away anti-drug rubber wrist bands, pencils and a fingerprint kit for parents.

"The community becomes more at ease with us," Schrade said. "If they see something that's not right, they give us a call. They don't feel intimidated."

Angela Morris, who lives near Clearwater Village, said that's what she wants her daughters to realize.

"I enjoy it, my kids enjoy it," she said while 6-year-old Hannah and 4-year-old Kasey clutched their balloon animals. "They understand that cops are here to protect them and not to be scared of them."



STAFF PHOTO BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

Trestine, 6, holds Sgt. Dave Flanders' hand while Miles, 3, looks on at the National Night Out event held on Tuesday. The program seeks open dialogue between law enforcement officials and the community.

This is a nationwide program originally developed to foster communication between local law enforcement agencies and the citizens. It's our opportunity to come out and be a little more personable with people in the neighborhoods.

## Teachers' induction activities beginning

BY ROB NOVIT  
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

About 116 new teachers got formal welcomes from the Aiken County School District administration at South Aiken High School on Wednesday — the first of two induction days.

The group is comprised of first-year teachers and others coming to Aiken County for the first time.

From comments in the induction program, Superintendent Dr. Beth Everett said, "My comprehensive vision is that we build a better school district, one child at a time. By supporting and valuing teachers, we assist our students in reaching their potential."

Sessions in Wednesday's workshop included information about students who are English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and at-risk or homeless students, as well as legal issues and the creation of environments with the purpose of achieving academic success.

The speakers to kick off Thursday's meeting will include Courtney Harley, the 2012-13 first-year teacher of the year, and former Aiken County teacher, Jason Bulwer.



Everitt

By supporting and valuing teachers, we assist our students in reaching their potential.

Dr. Beth Everett, superintendent





## KISS still rocking

Legendary band coming to the Upstate escape



Humid,  
t-storms  
High 87  
Low 73

# Herald-Journal

THURSDAY

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## Board decides against Thompson

Panel concludes ex-candidate not a resident of given address

By LYNNE P. SHACKLEFORD  
lynne.shackelford@shj.com

The Spartanburg County Voter Registrations Board decided during a hearing Wednesday that former mayoral candidate Henri Thompson doesn't live at the address he gave when he registered to vote three days before he filed for mayor.

The three-member board voted to sustain a challenge from Alexander Avenue resident Kenneth Tillerson. Voter Registrations board members Cindy Church and Dottie Broyles voted to sustain the challenge, so Thompson won't be allowed to vote in the Cornell Street precinct. Chairman Don Watson didn't vote, saying the chairman only votes in the case of a tie.

Tillerson, through his attorney, said he has lived within four blocks of the 111 Cornell St. address that Thompson listed when he changed his voter registration address on a Friday before he filed to run for mayor on the next Monday. Thompson withdrew from the mayor's race last week, saying that his campaign made the decision to withdraw after deciding they would be unable to solve all the problems that need addressing in one election.

Tillerson said he has lived at the same address for 25 years and knew Thompson didn't live on Cornell Street. Tillerson said he filed the challenge to "right a wrong."

Spartanburg attorney Andrew Poliakoff, who represents Tillerson, said Thompson was registered at his parent's address on Shiloh Church Road in

## US-Russian relations go cold

Obama-Putin summit canceled

By MATTHEW LEE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Already faltering, President Barack Obama's five-year effort to reboot U.S.-Russian relations finally crashed Wednesday, as the White House abruptly canceled his planned face-to-face summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

The effort to upgrade the relationship has fallen victim to the rapidly shrinking common

ground between the former Cold War rivals, including extreme differences over the Syrian civil war, Russia's domestic crackdown on civil rights and — the final straw — the asylum granted to National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden.

The U.S. and Russian foreign and defense ministers will sit down in Washington later this week, but Obama canceled his planned early September summit in Mos-



Obama

cow with Putin because of what the White House called a lack of "recent progress" on a wide array of critical issues. Such steps are not taken lightly, and the decision will almost certainly herald a new frostiness in already chilly ties.

"We have informed the Russian government that we believe it would be more constructive to postpone the summit until we have more results from our shared



Putin

agenda," the White House said in a statement, citing deep differences over missile defense, arms control, trade, global security and human rights. "Russia's disappointing decision to grant Edward Snowden temporary asylum was also a factor that we considered in assessing the current state of our bilateral relationship," it added.

The Kremlin responded quickly, voicing its own disappointment with the canceled summit and blaming it on Washington's inability to develop relations with Mos-

◆ SEE RUSSIA PAGE A7

## 'This is so cool'



PHOTOS BY TIM KIMZEY/TIM.KIMZEY@SHJ.COM

Panthers Pals excited at chance to spend time with their heroes

By DREW BROOKS  
drew.brooks@shj.com

Wednesday's group of Panthers Pals buzzed with excitement as they sat on the sideline, waiting for practice to end.

"This is so cool," said one of the five boys as each compared notes on their favorite players.

As the players broke away from the morning practice, the boys, ages 10 and 11, stood in awe and stared as players streamed past until a one of the Panthers came to a stop in front of them.

Luke Kuechly, the Panthers' 6-foot-3-inch, 235-linebacker, stopped in front of the smallest boy, 11-year-old Bennett Aho of Greer and asked a simple question.

"Hey, you want to hang out with me?" Kuechly asked with a broad smile before handing his helmet to Aho as other players followed suit.

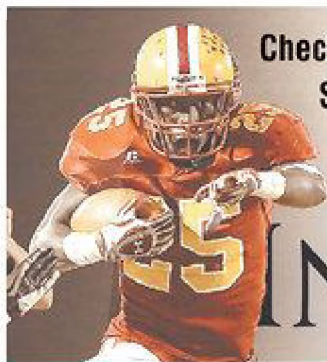
As the players signed autographs and mugged for fan photographs, the five boys stood alongside, holding the players' helmets and gloves.

"Do you play football?" linebacker Doug Hogue asked Jack Ager, 10, of Matthews, N.C. "I started playing football when I was 7 years old."

In the photo above, Carolina Panthers players, including Charles Godfrey, meet and sign autographs for the Panthers Pals, including J.P. Barry, 10, of Spartanburg, at Wofford College on Wednesday afternoon. The Pals are a randomly selected group of local youth paired with players following camp practice. At left, Luke Kuechly talks to a







Check out the  
Sports Section  
for Lakelands  
football coverage

#### Inside today's edition

**LOCAL:** Ware Shoals man charged after threatening to shoot officer, judge, **2A**

**STATE:** SCDOT presents details on interstate widening projects, **3A**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

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# INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 95, NO. 98



GREENWOOD FAMILY YMCA

## OH MY!

Traveling exhibit  
brings people  
face to face  
with reptiles

Carmen Link checks out the teeth on Brutus the alligator Wednesday at the Greenwood Family YMCA's family night. Brutus is part of Wild Reptile Adventures, a traveling exhibit that aims to educate people about reptiles.

PHOTOS BY MATT WALSH  
| INDEX-JOURNAL

#### ■ DHEC

## Sheheen calls for 'TB crisis controller'

By SCOTT J. BRYAN

sbryan@indexjournal.com

State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate for 2014 and an outspoken critic of the S.C. Department of Environmental Control's (DHEC) response to a tuberculosis (TB) outbreak in Ninety Six, requested a "TB Crisis Controller" in a letter to Gov. Nikki Haley released Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Sheheen said he visited with families affected by the tuberculosis outbreak in Ninety Six, a health scare that led to more than 1,000 people undergoing skin tests in an attempt to gauge the severity of the disease's spread through the small Greenwood County community.

Since March, two people have been diagnosed with a contagious form of the disease, while more than 100 have the TB germ, which is not contagious.

Tuberculosis is an airborne disease. Most cases are not fatal when treated properly.

On Tuesday, Sheheen criticized DHEC for not notifying parents sooner during an interview with the Index-Journal.

See **SHEHEEN**, page 4A



VINCENT SHEHEEN



NIKKI HALEY

## Sheheen going for it again

Democratic state senator running for governor, visits Greenwood

By CHRIS TRAINOR

ctrainor@indexjournal.com

You've heard the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed ..."

Well, Vincent Sheheen is going to try again.

Sheheen, a Democratic state senator from District 27, is running for governor in 2014. This will mark the second time he has sought the state's top political post. He had a fierce race with current Gov. Nikki Haley in 2010.

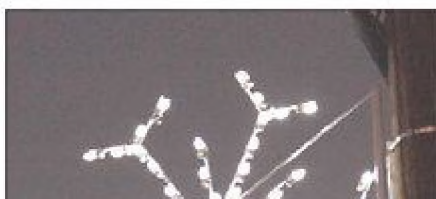
See **RUNNING**, page 4A

#### ■ MCCORMICK TOWN COUNCIL

## Special election set for Johnson's seat

By FRANK BUMB

fbumb@indexjournal.com



#### ■ CITY OF GREENWOOD

## More Christmas lights heading to Uptown

By CHRIS TRAINOR

ctrainor@indexjournal.com





**15 DAYS**

**UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL RETURNS**

# The Item



## CHAMPIONSHIP:

McIlroy seeks to rediscover the kid who dominated PGA last summer **B1**

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL

In today's special section, we've got bus routes, calendars, drop-off/pick-up procedures and much more for tri-county schools. Also included is information about local private schools and colleges.

VOL. 118, NO. 248 WWW.THEITEM.COM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

# District reveals staff changes

BY BRADEN BUNCH  
bbunch@theitem.com

Less than two weeks before students return to class in Sumter School District, 21 employees within the public school system have been re-assigned to different positions.

The changes, announced Wednesday, were the result of

the personnel report recommended by newly appointed interim Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker and approved by the district's board of trustees Tuesday night by a 6-1 vote. When he initially accepted the interim position, Baker said his first act would be to make changes to the district's operational chart.

Included in the reassign-

ments was Sterling Harris, who had come under criticism during his one year as principal at Sumter High School. Harris will now serve as principal of Brewington Academy, part of the district's alternative learning program.

Replacing Harris will be Dana Fall, a former Brewington Academy principal who was expected to take over the

Sumter County Career Center. A former assistant principal at Lakewood High School as well, he has served in Sumter County schools for eight years.

With the new assignments, Chief Academic Officer Lisa Norman, who spearheaded the standards-based report card effort in the district, will now serve as the director of

professional development.

In total, 12 of the personnel changes were made at the district level, while an additional nine were made on the school level.

Under the new operational makeup of the district, there are now three people serving as assistant superintendents

SEE CHANGES, PAGE A8

## Library wraps up summer reading program



Chalk art is always popular at the wrap-up party for children who participated in the Sumter County Library's summer reading program.

## More than 1,500 books read by participants

BY IVY MOORE  
ivym@theitem.com

The summer reading program sponsored by the Sumter County Library was a



Jayden Singleton, 5, mounts Lindley Hummel's motorcycle Friday at the Wesmark branch of the library. Hummel is with Shaw Air Force Base's Green Knights motorcycle club. Young readers also enjoyed a bounce house, balloon toys and more during the party.

## City talks dog park

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT  
bmarchant@theitem.com

City Council normally deals with issues related to Sumter's human population, but discussion at this week's meeting turned to the city's four-legged residents.

A new group pushing for Sumter to set up a dog park spoke at Tuesday's council meeting, laying out the argument for a specific place for dogs and their owners to exercise, socialize and play.

Lisa Gaedtko, owner of the local pet care company Lisa's Ark, spoke during the public comment section on behalf of the Sumter Park of Tail-waggers, or SPOT, about the proposed





**BRING OUT THE BOOGIE!** Florence Shag Club keeps dance alive. **Page 1D**

# Morning News

THURSDAY AUGUST 8, 2013

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Afternoon  
thunders, rain,  
high 90, low 73  
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

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## Chris Tucker will perform Sept. 14 at Florence Civic Center

BY TRACI BRIDGES

Morning News  
tbridges@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — One of the biggest names in comedy is coming to Florence next month.

Florence Civic Center officials announced Wednesday that Chris Tucker will perform Sept. 14 at the civic center. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Monday.

Tucker is best known for his role as Det. James Carter in the "Rush Hour" film se-

ries. He became a frequent stand-up performer on "Def Comedy Jam" in the 1990s and came to prominence in the 1995 film "Friday" alongside Ice Cube.

Next he co-starred and produced "Money Talks" with Charlie Sheen and appeared in Luc Besson's "The Fifth Element" before beginning work on the highly commercially successful "Rush Hour" films.

In 2006, he negotiated an unprecedented \$25 million salary to appear in "Rush Hour 3," which at the time made him the highest paid actor in Hollywood.

He most recently appeared in the Oscar-nominated film "Silver Linings Playbook" with Robert DeNiro, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper.

Tucker also is a humanitarian and spends much of his spare time traveling and working with his foundation. His stand-up comedy tour has received rave reviews all over the world.

Tucker's opening act will be Terry Hodges, whose stand-up performances have



Chris Tucker will perform at the Florence Civic Center on Sept. 14.

See **TUCKER**, Page 8A

## SEAT IS GETTING WARM



PHOTO BY JONAS RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

**M**other Carrie Spencer (right) talks with McLeod Safe Kids coordinator Ashley Costas in front of Target as her children, Avery (left) and Conner, wait July 31 as part of National Heat Stroke Prevention Day. The campaign is to raise awareness about the dangers of leaving children unattended in the car. McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal used a thermometer hooked up to the inside of car to demonstrate how hot it can get inside a car. A child's body heats up three times faster than an adult. When the body temperature reaches 107 degrees, it can be fatal.



McLeod Safe Kids Pee Dee/Coastal coordinator Ashley Costas (center) along with Florence Police Community Action Team officer Travis Scott talk to shoppers outside Target near Magnolia Mall on July 31 as part of National Heat Stroke Prevention Day.



Children pass by the McLeod Safe Kids temperature display that reads 102 degrees for the inside of a car, more than 13 degrees above the outside temperature.

## More options for special needs kids

The King's Academy to work with nonprofit groups offering more aid to qualifying students

BY ELLEN MEDER

Morning News  
emed@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — School choice legislation has been pushed, but never passed, in the South Carolina Statehouse for more than a decade. But this summer, a very limited version passed in the form of a budget proviso.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, individuals can make tax-exempt donations to nonprofit organizations, which in turn will dole out scholarships to special needs students for private school tuition.

Grants will be given out to qualifying students, at approved schools, in the amount of \$10,000 or the total of tuition, whichever is less.

With a statewide cap on tax exemptions of \$9 million, the new program could potentially serve upwards of 800 special education students.

So far the Education Oversight Committee, an independent state agency tasked with implementing the change, has approved a dozen private schools to participate in what they're calling the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children — including one in Florence, The King's Academy.

Melanie Barton, EOC executive director, said with more than 200 schools potentially eligible in the state, that number is likely to go up.

"It's an ongoing list," Barton said. "That list of 12 will expand, and it will expand greatly over the next few months."

Barton explained that the EOC isn't so much "selecting" private schools for the program, but making sure they meet the qualifications set out in the proviso, including having nondiscriminatory practices, an appropriate curriculum, giving the right assessments regularly to track progress and being a real brick-and-mortar school, not a virtual school.

For a school to qualify, it must also be a member of the three major accrediting organizations used in South Carolina: the Southern Association of Colleges and

See **CHOICE**, Page 6A

## Proposed sexually oriented club draws complaints

Founder says club is private, but county puts stop-work order on The Beaver Lodge

said, they thought it was going to be a bar.

"That was bad enough be-

that exist."

They do exist, but Robert Carr, founder of The Beaver Lodge and

and tried to get something more concrete and official organized," Carr said. "Then we started look-





CMYK



Odd



## ELVIS IS IN THE AREA

TRIBUTE TO ELVIS FEATURING  
JASON SIKES AUG. 17  
AT THE FINE ARTS CENTER, A8

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013

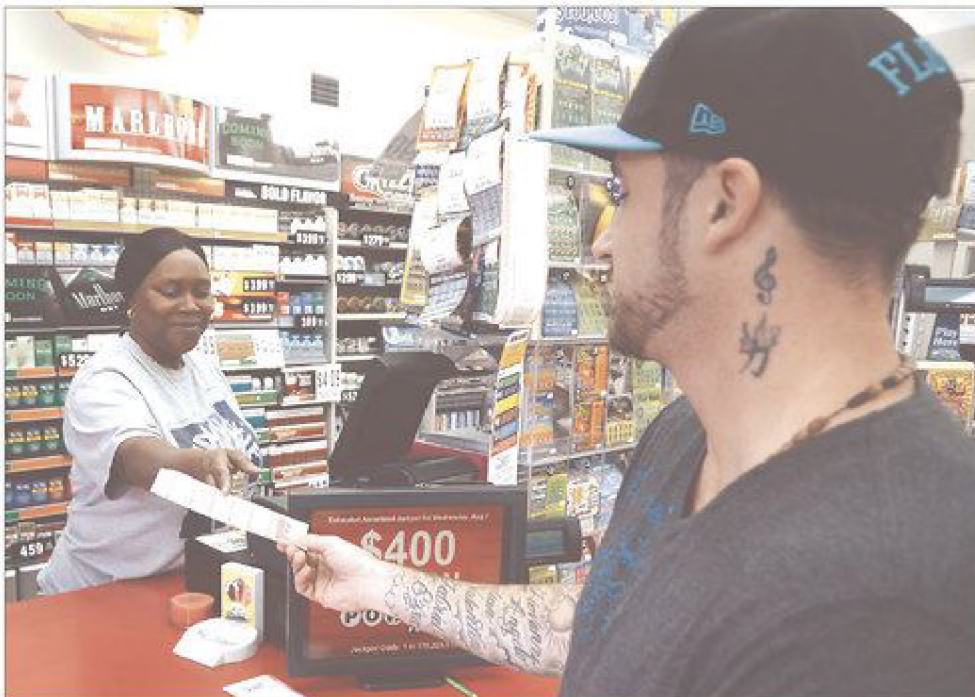
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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES • VOL. 152 • NO. 220



Quick Pantry cashier Sandra Martin sells a Powerball ticket to Benjamin Hawking of Charleston on Wednesday afternoon at the Columbia Road store. Hawking said it was his first Powerball ticket purchase. He was motivated by all of the interest surrounding the payout, estimated at \$425 million. Martin says she has seen a definite increase in Powerball ticket sales at the store. **To read our regular report on South Carolina and Georgia daily lottery drawings, see A3.**

## 'Turtle Man' now facing S.C. charges

Authorities: Man had turtles, alligator illegally

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
T&D Correspondent

The 33-year-old Holly Hill man charged with violating federal laws prohibiting the possession and sale of specific endangered species of animals is also now facing multiple state charges in connection with the case.

Steven Baker, nicknamed "Turtle Man," was arrested Aug. 1 at his Brelands Road residence near the Boyer community for allegedly violating the federal Lacey Act. The arrest followed a year-long, multi-agency undercover operation led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

He has since been released from jail on an unsecured \$25,000 bond.

S.C. Department of Natural Resources Region 3 Capt. Robert McCullough reported that on Aug. 6, his agency charged Baker with two counts of unlawful possession of spotted turtles, two counts of unlawful possession of diamondback terrapins and one count of unlawful possession of an American alligator.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a maximum fine of \$1,000, McCullough said. If convicted on all the state counts, Baker could be sentenced to five years.

See TURTLE, A3

## Calhoun County gets \$500,000 for water tank

T&D Staff Report

Calhoun County is receiving a \$500,000 community development block grant to build a water tank.

The county will match \$269,400 toward the cost of the tank, which will serve the Belleville/Fort Motte area.

About 232 residents will benefit from the project.

The tank will provide enough pressure to serve the area with water for drinking and fire protection.

The county has already added water lines in the Ft. Motte area in preparation for the water tank.

The S.C. Department of Commerce announced the block grant Wednesday. The Calhoun County grant is one of 24 grants across the state totaling \$9.9 million.

## Bamberg 1 to help students find 'The Leader in Me'

■ This week, The T&D is highlighting new programs at local schools.

By DALE LINDERALTMAN  
T&D Staff Writer

Students at Bamberg School District 1's Richard Carroll Elementary School will be learning to take charge of their academic and personal success beginning this fall.

Under "The Leader in Me" initiative, teachers will be facilitators who show students how to set goals and assess their success in meeting those goals, guidance counselor Ann Boykin



### WHAT'S NEW FOR SCHOOL



help teach kids such things, she said.

"A lot of kids are not attending church, are not being taught at home," Boykin said.

The school will be teaching students to consider the feelings of others in a "think win-win" situation, she said. "That means to think



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