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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, July 15, 2014

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, July 15, 2014



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The Greenville News

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TUESDAY,
JULY 15, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY BERGDAHL BACK ON REGULAR DUTY PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

Ravenel presses to seek Senate seat

Democrats, GOP criticize former SC treasurer's decision



Former South Carolina Treasurer Thomas Ravenel fills out paperwork Monday at the state Election Commission headquarters in Columbia to run as a petition candidate for the U.S. Senate. JEFFREY COLLINS/AP

By Tim Smith
Staff writer
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — Being a felon doesn't disqualify you from running for Congress.

And Thomas Ravenel doesn't think it should.

Ravenel, a former state treasurer who resigned in 2007 when he pleaded guilty to a federal drug charge, filed a petition Monday carrying 16,469 names with the State Election Commission to run as an independent candidate against Republican and current U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and Democratic Sen. Brad Hutto.

He told *The Greenville News* that he doesn't believe being a fel-

on should disqualify someone from running for Congress.

"Once you've done your time, you've done your time," he said. "It shouldn't be a life sentence, but it is in this country. I live out in the country, and I've got a 3 1/2-month-old daughter who I can't protect. I can't have a gun. I think that's ridiculous."

Matt Orr, a spokesman for the state Republican Party, issued a statement Monday calling Ravenel's candidacy an "embarrassment" for the state.

"We doubt many voters will be interested in a convicted felon who renounced his American citizenship," he said. "Thomas Ravenel can't even vote for himself. His so-called 'campaign' is an em-

barrassment, and the people of South Carolina don't appreciate it one bit."

South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison sounded a similar criticism, noting that Ravenel can run for Congress if he meets the basic requirements, which deal with age, citizenship and living in the state that elects him.

"But we believe South Carolinians can do much better than electing a convicted felon who has let the state down before and had to resign from office," he said.

"Ultimately the voters will make the final decision, and they

See RAVENEL, Page 4A

Man set for court in dog dragging

By Anna Lee
Staff writer
alee@greenvillenews.com

The story of a pit bull that grabbed hearts and headlines will be told in court today.

Roger Dennis Owens, a 53-year-old Marietta man accused of dragging a dog behind a truck while driving, is expected to appear before a circuit judge at 11 a.m. at the Greenville County Courthouse.

Owens was charged in December with ill treatment of animals, a felony offense that carries up to five years in prison upon a conviction, said Marcia Barker, a spokeswoman for the 13th Circuit Solicitor's Office.

Witnesses on Nov. 29 reported seeing a tan and white dog being dragged by a rope or tether, authorities said at the time. Several of the witnesses had identified Owens as the driver, warrants said.

The dog, an American pit bull terrier mix now named Andra Grace, was found abandoned and severely injured in the roadway, according to warrants. An organization out of New York with in days had set up a fundraiser to pay for her medical treatment. More than \$16,000 was donated. The dog has since been adopted.

Owens initially received a summons for cruelty to animals, Barker said. Under state law, the misdemeanor is punishable upon a conviction by a \$1,000 fine or up to 30 days in jail for first offenders.

The charge was later upgraded after further investigation by Greenville County deputies and the solicitor's office, Barker

GOOD FOOD ON THE GO



Frances Baker, right, and Khasj Ladson fill antipasti cups with cheese and pepperoni for Spinx's Fresh on the Go menu, which is prepared at a commissary inside Spinx's Simpsonville gas stations. PHOTOS BY HEIDI HEILBRUNN/STAFF

GRAPES AND GAS

Convenience-store
cuisine is going healthy

By Lillia Callum-Penso
Staff writer
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The smell of fresh baked cookies is the first thing that hits you when you step inside the Spinx Co. Commissary in Simpsonville. Then, you notice the activity.

On a morning in early July, the food prep is underway at the small facility that sits off Standing Springs Road in Simpsonville. Workers chop fresh strawberries and wash and pack grapes into little



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and Bieber,
Miley bashing
at RiverDogs
game**

SPORTS, C1



The Post and Courier

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TUESDAY, July 15, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

Curnell shot himself, solicitor rules

Death deemed 'clear' suicide; officer saw teen's garb as potential sign of trouble



Curnell

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

A Charleston policeman walked up to Denzel Curnell last month after he saw the young man wearing a hooded sweatshirt in 85-degree weather at the Bridgeview Village

apartment. It was part of Officer Jamal Medlin's job to make sure the 19-year-old belonged in the historically violent neighborhood, the police later said, and he saw Curnell's clothes as a sign of possible trouble. But what happened next wasn't

part of the plan and wasn't the result of any wrongdoing by the officer, the area's top prosecutor said Monday. Curnell shot himself in the head as he lay on the ground during a struggle with Medlin. Solicitor Scarlett Wilson said in deeming his

death a "clear" suicide — a contention first raised that night but never explained by the police. While city officials commended Medlin for his actions June 20, attorney Andy Savage renewed

Please see CURNELL, Page A4



Read more

To read the full statement from Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, find this story at postandcourier.com.

A rare bird, indeed

Charleston Museum flies high after 'big boy' fossil is identified



WIDE SPEED/STAFF

A skeletal replica of the biggest bird ever to fly, a *Pelagornis sandersi*, hovers Monday over the natural history room at the Charleston Museum as curator Matt Gibson discusses the seabird, whose fossilized bones were found at Charleston International Airport in 1983.

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

The Charleston International crew thought they were just building a bigger airport. The archaeology crew thought they might be digging up a whale. The biggest bird ever to fly hung for years from the ceiling in the Charleston Museum — without even a name. But when curators recently pulled open

the fossil drawer for paleontologist Daniel Ksepka, he was stunned. He laid his arm down by a piece of the wing bone and it was longer than his entire arm. The wings of this giant, in fact, were 21 feet long — longer than a giraffe is tall. "Thin," Ksepka told the curators, "is a big boy." Ksepka, of the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn., identified *Pelagornis sandersi* in a paper this month — creating a

stir in international media as impressive as a flap of those wings. The fossil was found in 1983 during excavation work at the airport in North Charleston. Before Ksepka's work, a cast of the 25-million-or-so-year-old fossil hung from the ceiling had been labeled as a false-toothed giant but not as a specific bird because nobody knew whether it

Please see BIRD, Page A4

Teachers, school leaders to get raises

Charleston district's support staff aren't included in this round

BY AMANDA KERR
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More than 80 percent of Charleston County School District's thousands of employees are in line for raises, with principals and their assistants getting nearly a quarter of the \$8.4 million, under a pay study being unveiled Tuesday. Teachers, who far outnumber administrators, will be getting the bulk of the money, but some of the district's lowest paid workers won't be seeing any increase. Of the district's roughly 5,500 employees, 1,020 will not get a raise because they already were earning more than the market rate, according to the study.

Among those whose salaries are frozen are 176 food service workers, 118 administrative support clerks, 123 Head Start teachers and specialists, 88 teaching assistants, 55 teacher support specialists and 33 classroom teachers, the district said.

No one's pay will be cut, but they won't be eligible for raises until the job market catches up to their salaries, said Michael Bobbey, the district's chief financial officer.

School district employees will learn Tuesday whether they will receive a raise. The first paychecks with the new salary rates will go out on Friday for some employees. Teachers, who are not on a 12-month pay cycle, will receive their first check under the new pay scale Aug. 15.

Superintendent Nancy McGhee said principals were among the employees whose pay was furthest below

Please see RAISES, Page A4



Gallery

For more photos, go to postandcourier.com/gallery.

New location

Charleston City Council's Real Estate Committee voted to purchase this \$3.5 million waterfront site for the International African American Museum.



GILL GUERRA/123RF

African-American museum plans shift to new site

\$3.5M deal for waterfront property advances

BY DIANE KNICH
dknich@postandcourier.com

The International African American Museum likely will have a new, waterfront location after a key City Council committee Monday approved the \$3.5 million land purchase. The city was poised to build the museum on a site at the corner of Concord and Calhoun streets, across from the S.C. Aquarium and Fort Sumter tour boat site. But council's Real Estate Committee unanimously approved purchasing a new 1.23-acre site, which is south of the Dockside condominiums.

It also is adjacent to the site of the former Gadsden's Wharf, which was built in 1767 and accepted slave ships from Africa. The full City Council must approve the purchase Tuesday. Charleston Mayor Joe Riley said the city would sell the site at Concord and Calhoun streets for development. The sale will bring in more than enough to cover the cost of the new site, he said. Riley said that when researching certain aspects of the museum, the city learned the waterfront site might be available. It's a much

Please see MUSEUM, Page A5



WIDE SPEED/STAFF

The city of Charleston is looking to purchase 1.23 acres between Dockside condominiums (left) and the Charleston Maritime Center (behind trees, at right), for the museum.



Chance of storms.
High 93, Low 74.
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forecast, B8

Bridge...D6 Crossword...C104 Sports...C1
Business...B1 Editorials...A8 Television...D6
Classifieds...C5 Movies...B1 The South...B1
Comics...D45 Obituaries...B4 Your Health...D1

Charleston Deals today

Animal Antics
\$50 for 5 full days of Doggy Day Care at Animal Antics (valued at \$110). See A2

SEC MEDIA DAYS: Auburn expects more high-powered offense. **B1**
USC in spotlight on Tuesday. Updates on GOGAMECOCKS.COM

The State

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

*"She takes (her illness) really well
... and never complains about it."*

Helen Cooke, mother of Clara Cann



Clara Cooke gets a royal welcome Monday by members of the University of South Carolina volleyball, football and baseball teams and cheer squad.

WHEN YOU MAKE A WISH

Surprise pep rally is the frosting on girl's Disney World dream

By HARRISON CABELL
hcabell@thestate.com

Walt Disney World long has been the destination of successful athletes who want to celebrate winning a major championship.

But, for 5-year-old Clara Cooke—who suffers from Type 1 diabetes and epilepsy—it is the dream of a lifetime.

Monday, Clara was surprised by a group of special friends—including USC football player A.J. Cann and other members of Gamecock athletics—with a pep rally for her before she left for Disney World on Tuesday.

Cann, a left offensive guard for the Gamecocks, was joined by USC kicker Elliott Fry and defensive end Devin Washington, along with USC cheerleaders and volleyball players.

Cann, who is 6 foot 4 and weighs 311 pounds, lifted Clara effortlessly after she walked through a human tunnel the athletes made for her when she walked into the volleyball competition facility.



Clara Cooke with her favorite football player, A.J. Cann.

SEE WISH PAGE A4

AT THESTATE.COM

View a photo gallery and video from the pep rally.

S.C. BAPTIST CONVENTION: 'KILL-A-WATT FOR GOD'

Saving energy now means more mission money later

By CAROLYN CLICK
ccllick@thestate.com

From his desktop computer, Denny Newman can monitor the temperature settings of offices inside the South Carolina Baptist Convention, raising and lowering the thermostat as needed.

When it's time to change a compressor in one of the convention's



CAROLYN CLICK/CLICK@THESTATE.COM

plier areas and other areas where people might step in and out briefly—were aimed at reducing the convention's energy footprint.

The measures also could lead to an estimated annual savings of about \$3,700, Newman said.

With lower electric bills, more of the convention's budget can go to missions rather than the electric company, he said.

EXCLUSIVE

Hoops in loop for USC coliseum

Famed building to be used for basketball practice

By ANDREW SHAIN
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The Carolina Coliseum—where University of South Carolina basketball enjoyed its heyday, Elvis Presley performed before a sold-out crowd and thousands of high school graduates clutched diplomas—will end an era this fall.

The floor of the 12,000-seat, 46-year-old arena will become two permanent practice courts for the men's and women's Gamecocks basketball teams in October, university officials told The State on Monday.

No other events will be held inside the bowl of garnet-colored seats. The school already has auctioned off the old basketball court and is selling some of the chairs.

The practice courts do not mean USC is ready to go ahead with a \$125 million proposal introduced last year to make over the coliseum into classrooms.

CAROLINA COLISEUM'S REMAKE

3,000—The number of the coliseum's 12,000 seats being removed to make way for two new basketball courts

\$60—Price for a set of three foldout chairs from the coliseum

\$600,000—Cost of construction inside the arena and installation of the two new courts

\$23,215—Price paid for the coliseum's old floor, now being offered for \$98,000 on Craigslist

THESTATE.COM

You can see a gallery of photos chronicling the coliseum's history online.

SEE COLISEUM PAGE A4



About 3,000 Carolina Coliseum seats, in sections of three, are for sale to the public. The seats are being removed to accommodate renovations.

IN THE NEWS

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Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, July 15, 2014

Vol. 148, No. 196 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢



Tonya Guy, who gives tours of Willowbrook Cemetery in Edgefield, has a notebook filled with pictures of people who are buried there. Here she is showing a picture of Chancellor Francis Hugh Wardlaw, the author of the Ordinance of Secession that South Carolina adopted during a convention in 1860.

History taken to the grave

Interesting, unusual people laid to rest in Edgefield cemetery

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Editor's note: This is the final story in a two-part series on Willowbrook Cemetery.

EDGEFIELD — Some of Tonya Guy's favorite people are dead. They lie beneath the magnolia trees in Willowbrook Cemetery, and Guy enjoys taking visitors to see their final resting places during the tours she conducts in the historic graveyard on Church Street.

"There are illustrious individuals here who led such fascinating lives," said Guy, who is the grants and promotions coordinator for the Edgefield Cemetery Association. "To be able to introduce them to others is an honor and a privilege. I never get tired of telling their stories."

Four South Carolina governors are buried in Willowbrook, along with some other notable politicians. One of the most unusual tales associated with



Matthew Calbraith Butler, who was a Confederate major general during the Civil War, lost his right foot during the fighting. He had it embalmed and kept it until he died. It is buried with him at Willowbrook Cemetery in Edgefield.

the cemetery's denizens belongs to someone less famous — Dr. James Adams DeVore, who died in 1895. His grave has a trapdoor made of iron that has rusted.

"He was a very eccentric character," Guy said.

Please see **HISTORY**, Page 11A.

VIDEOS ONLINE

Tonya Guy shares the stories of some of the more interesting and unusual people from South Carolina who are buried in Willowbrook Cemetery | www.aikenstandard.com



The rough-looking rock on the grave of the Rev. John Lake is from a leper colony he started on an island in the South China Sea when he was a missionary. Learn more about Lake by watching the video with this story online.

COMMENT ON FACEBOOK

Want to share this story with your friends? Like the Aiken Standard and let others know about Willowbrook | [facebook.com/aikenstandard](https://www.facebook.com/aikenstandard)

Tech firm buys URS

Fortune 500 biz agrees to \$4B price tag

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

The URS Corporation has been purchased by another company to the tune of \$4 billion.

AECOM Technology Corporation executed a definite agreement under which the company will acquire outstanding shares of URS for a combination of cash and stocks valued at \$4 billion, according to a recent press release.

URS has a large, local presence in Aiken, with the headquarters office of URS-GMOS located downtown on Newberry Street.

The local division largely works internationally on the management of nuclear sites, including the Savannah River Site.

URS Corporation, in total, has more than 50,000 employees in a network of offices in nearly 50 countries.

The assumption of URS debt that AECOM would acquire spikes the total enterprise value to \$6 billion, officials wrote.

The combined company will be a fully integrated infrastructure and federal services provider with more than 95,000 employees in 150 countries, according to the press release.

Please see **URS**, Page 11A.

AREA DEATHS

Barbara Ann White, Ridge Spring
Bettie Jane Howell, Wampanoag
Charlotte Young Lawson, Aiken
Henry Seawright, Aiken
Ludie B. Smith, Bladensburg, Md.
Pansy Burgess Zimmerman, Aiken
Rose Marie DuBose, Bath
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

NASCAR driver headlining Ollie's opening

STAFF REPORTS

Ollie's Bargain Outlet's grand opening will include one of NASCAR's top drivers.

Kevin Harvick will be in Aiken on Aug. 6 to help the community celebrate the closeout store's new location.

An autograph session will be held with Harvick, but only 250 tickets will be available. Ollie's Bargain Outlet will

Want to go?

WHAT: Ollie's Bargain Outlet grand opening
WHEN: Aug. 6 at 9 a.m.; autograph tickets will be available at 7:30 a.m.
WHERE: 1660 Richard Ave.

relocated to the Aiken Mall in 1992.

over the past few years and will remain at that location once Ollie's moves in.

In January, Ziff Properties, which operates the shopping center, announced Ollie's Bargain Outlet made arrangements to lease the space.

Ollie's Bargain Outlet, based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is a retailer of closeouts, excess inventory and salvage merchandise, according to a press



AP FILE PHOTO/TERRY RENN

DANGER IN THE ROCKIES

It's the season for thunderstorms, and the lightning can be deadly **A4**

Herald-Journal

TUESDAY

JULY 15, 2014
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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Archie's demise

Beloved comic book icon Archie Andrews will die a hero, taking a bullet for his gay best friend in Issue No. 36 of "Life With Archie," which will be released Wednesday. **PAGE A5**

\$7B settlement

Citigroup agreed Monday to pay \$7 billion to settle a federal investigation into its handling of risky subprime mortgages, admitting to a pattern of deception Attorney General Eric Holder said "shattered lives" and contributed to the worst financial crisis in decades. **PAGE D1**

Historic vote

The Church of England ended one of its longest and most divisive disputes Monday with an overwhelming vote in favor of allowing women to become bishops. **PAGE A3**

Fracking's fault?

States where hydraulic fracturing is taking place have seen a surge in earthquake activity, raising suspicions that the unconventional drilling method could be to blame. Oklahoma has recorded nearly 250 earthquakes since January. **PAGE A4**

New VW SUV

Volkswagen plans to build a new seven-passenger SUV at its factory in Chattanooga, Tenn., adding about 2,000 factory jobs as it tries to reverse U.S. sales that have fallen for two straight years. **PAGE D1**

Weather

REMEMBERING THE 'VOICE OF SPARTANBURG'



PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM
Pallbearers carry the coffin of Bill Drake into Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium during his funeral service Monday. For more photos, visit GoUpstate.com.

Family, friends honor Drake

By JENNY ARNOLD
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

Spartanburg radio personality Bill Drake will be remembered for his unique, resonant voice, his never-ending questions and the nicknames he made up for his friends.

But more importantly, those who knew Drake best said during his funeral service Monday that the radio host will be remembered for the countless volunteer hours he gave to a wide spectrum of events in Spartanburg, his love of community and "relationship radio."

Drake died Friday at Spartanburg Hospital for Restorative Care, losing his battle with cancer. He was 73.

Drake worked in radio in Wisconsin before moving to Columbia in 1972 with his wife, Judy, and three children. By May 1976, he was on his way to becoming the "voice of Spartanburg," when he began working for WSPA Radio. He later hosted his popular radio program, "Awake With Drake," founded the "Battle of the Brains" quiz bowl for local students and did the announce-



tree called Drake one of his greatest mentors, having worked at WSPA Radio with him for two years starting in 1981. He said Drake wasn't like the disc jockeys of his day, who mostly had long hair and spun one pop hit after another. When Crabtree came into the station every day, Drake wanted to know what was happening in Spartanburg.

"He wanted to know who was doing what, what was going on," Crabtree said. "He seemed to know everyone, especially the movers and shakers. He taught

"I know this community will miss him as much as his family will. We thank you for being such good friends with our dad."

DAN DRAKE,
Bill Drake's son, left

home," Crabtree said.

Craig DeBolt said it has been both an honor and a struggle to fill in for Drake on the radio since April 15. DeBolt was emotional during his time at the podium, crying and sometimes pausing before he could speak again. "Don't start the music just yet," he said, after a pause, laughing through his tears.

He said he wants to find a way to keep "Awake With Drake" going, for the man who "was shining the light" for Spartanburg every day since 1976. "Bill was not a disc

Council backs plans for park

City to partner with west-side church on \$51,081 place to play

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

Spartanburg City Council unanimously approved a new park for the west side Monday and denied a proposal to rezone the former Ellen Hines Smith Girls Home property.

The city worked with St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, on W.O. Ezell Boulevard, to create a new passive park with playground equipment. The park will be open to the public from dawn until dusk.

Church leadership was expected to approve the partnership late Monday, and City Parks and Recreation Superintendent Kim Moultrie said the church was excited about the park.

Moultrie said the park is within five to 10 minutes walking distance from the Wadsworth Hills neighborhood and is easily accessible from W.O. Ezell Boulevard.

Under the proposal, the church will lease the land to the city for the next 10 years. The city will spend \$51,081 for the park, which includes new playground equipment, park benches, bicycle racks, landscaping and restriping of the parking lot. The city will carry liability insurance on the park.

The city has another \$348,920 to spend on other west-side parks and recreation amenities, and Moultrie said city staff is working on other partnerships.

Moultrie said the park will open when the playground equipment is installed, hopefully by late summer.

In a rare move, council overturned its own Planning Commission when it denied a rezoning request by the Hope Center for Children, the owner of five acres previously occupied by the Ellen Hines Smith Girls Home. The Planning Commission unanimously approved rezoning the property at its April 17 meeting.

The Hope Center for Children wants to sell the property, which includes multiple buildings on

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

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DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

OSHA investigating John de la Howe

By KATE HRUBY
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The John de la Howe School is under investigation once again, this time by the South Carolina Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

OSHA received a complaint from a school employee, who wishes to remain anonymous, stating various grievances with the safety of infrastructure at the Level II facility for

at-risk youth.

The complaint includes allegations of mold, asbestos, lead paint and hazardous chemicals in various locations across the campus, and describes the administrative building and cafeteria to be in a state of wanton disrepair.

Twenty issues were listed in the complaint. Such issues in the cafeteria that affect about 65 students and 50 employees are rain water entering, live light fixtures, large holes inside and out, an outside freezer that can

be locked and can potentially lock an individual inside, and a rear ramp at too steep an angle with no friction tape.

In the administrative building, the complaint alleges there are falling terracotta roof tiles. These tiles, according to the source, might contain asbestos. The complaint also alleges rusted out or missing handrails, the lack of a fire suppression system, and, again, rain water entering live light fixtures.

The source said these structural issues have been neglected for years, even after numerous requests to administration by school employees that they be fixed.

"All old facilities have issues, but it's how you address them," the source said.

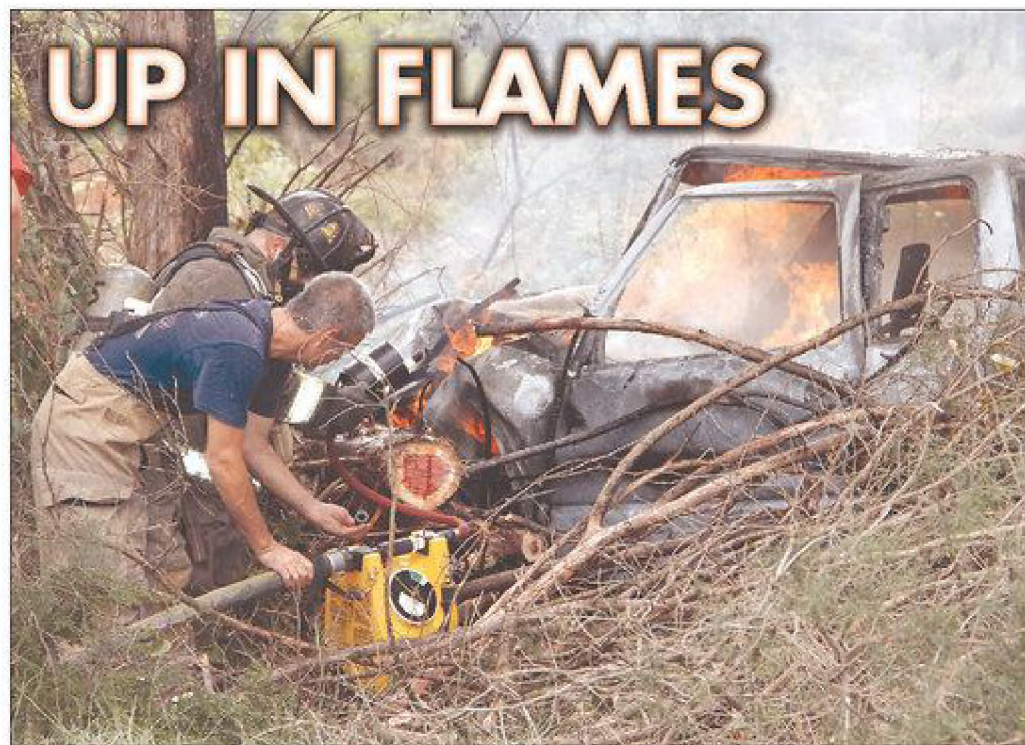
Chemicals on campus are also an issue. According to the complaint, unidentified chemicals lacking material safety data sheets are being stored in the laundry room, and the school

does not provide any training on how to handle chemicals used throughout the campus.

Additionally, the complaint states that all but one window in each of the cottages on campus are screwed shut, leaving only one window for evacuation. The open window is not marked and varies from cottage to cottage.

Another evacuation safety hazard is said to be found in the gymnasium.

See OSHA, page 4A



PHOTOS BY INDEX-JOURNAL STAFF

No one seriously injured in vehicle fire

Crews from several fire departments responded to douse a pickup truck engulfed in flames along Scotch Cross Road late Monday afternoon. Crews battled the fire for several minutes to extinguish the vehicle, which had careened into a row of trees lining the thoroughfare.

■ ABBEVILLE

County rezones potential Drax site

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

ABBEVILLE — Groundwork is being laid for one of the largest economic development projects in years for Abbeville County.

Abbeville County Council voted 7-0 on first readings of two ordinances which rezone two plots of land of 119.91 and 24 acres from forest agricultural (EA) to basic industrial (BA).

The rezoning is part of a comprehensive effort to secure Drax Biomass as a new hub of jobs an investment in Abbeville County. While Drax is not expected to make a decision regarding Abbeville County as a prospective site for its biomass factory site, Abbeville County Director Bruce Cooley said the rezoning made sense regardless.

"County Council has already voted to exercise its option on that land," Cooley said. "If it was still forest agricultural if they came, they wouldn't be allowed to build a factory on it. This just rezones the site for their needs."

Even if Drax opts to go elsewhere — Abbeville County is in competition with two other unknown sites — it makes sense to keep the nearly 144 acres as basic industrial Cooley said.

"We want to hang on to the property as a site for future, prospective businesses," Cooley said. "It's on the rail system and right on Highway 72."

Previous comments by Abbeville County Council Chairman Claude Thomas pointed to the serendipitous nature of Drax's interest in the site.

"Before we knew anything about Drax, we got the option

See REZONING, page 4A

Ravenel presents signatures for US Senate ballot as an independent

By JEFFREY COLLINS

with a famous family name in South ger have a false choice between the



HEALTH

A spoonful of meds could be harmful

Why imprecise measurements could be a dangerous mistake A8

Filing opens today

School board, city spots are up for grabs

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS

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Election season in Sumter will continue to heat up today, as filing for candidates in three Sumter City Council races and four Sumter School District Board of Trustees races officially opens at noon.

Potential candidates looking to run in any of these seven non-partisan races have until noon Aug. 15 to file at Sumter County Election Commission offices.

On city council, wards 1, 3 and 5 — currently held by councilmen Thomas "Bubba" Lowery, Calvin Hastie and Robert Galiano, respectively — will be up for four-year terms in the November general election. Within the school board, districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 — held by Larry Addison, Karen Michalik, vice chairwoman Patty Wilson and chairman Keith Schultz — will also be up for four-year terms.

While Addison has already announced he doesn't intend to seek re-election in November, at least one of the incumbents is expected to have at least one challenger in the bid to return to office.

Schultz is expected to be challenged by John Hilton, former principal of Millwood Elementary School. Both men have said they plan to file shortly after today and look forward to communicating with constituents before Election Day.

"We'll be focusing on the positive changes we've had in the district, and we're working more toward the technology component. I don't think my work in the district is done," Schultz said Monday.

Hilton retired in June after serving as principal at Millwood for 25 years. He previously said his reason for running for the position is to continue to contribute to public



SUMTER ITEM FILE PHOTO

Write-in candidate Sharmane Anderson is challenging the results of the Manning City Council District 5 special election.

Write-in candidate contests special election in Manning

Anderson questions ward line changes, absentee count

BY JIM HILLEY

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(803) 774-1211

Changes to ward lines, discrepancies between voter lists circulated during the election and differing accounts of the number of absentee ballots are reasons given by write-in candidate Sharmane Ander-

son in a letter to the Manning Municipal Election Commission contesting the results of the Manning City Council District 5 special election held July 8.

The three-member commission has a hearing set for 10:30 a.m. today at Manning City Hall, 29 W. Boyce St., to consider Anderson's complaints.

"I am just trying to make it right," Anderson said. "Not necessarily for me but for elections to come."

In her letter, Anderson said changes to ward lines made June 23 are in violation of the South Carolina Code of Laws, which requires public notice

SEE MANNING, PAGE A11

No idle hands here



JADE REYNOLDS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Joshua Conyers loads leaves into a bag Monday. The 14-year-old is one of 20 teenagers participating in the Sumter Youth Corps this summer.

Sumter Youth Corps keeps teens busy this summer

BY JADE REYNOLDS

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Some 14- and 15-year-olds don't have idle hands this summer.

The 20 teenagers are employed with Sumter Youth Corps, a partnership between Sumter Police Department and

City of Sumter Community Development Department, which puts the adolescents to work cleaning city parks.

"I've never done it before, and it's good experience," said Aorran Corbett, 15. "It will help later with jobs. I'll have something to put on applications."

Since 1994, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has pro-

vided funding for the program in the form of Community Development Block Grant money.

"Other than giving them something to do this summer, they gain supervisory skills," said Patrolman Pete Schmid, whom the students at Alice Drive and

SEE YOUTH, PAGE A11

SEE FILING, PAGE A11



RIVALRY REMATCH

Rich, Bulldogs looking for revenge against Tigers. C1

PAIN 101: *Understanding and finding relief for body pains. B1*

DIPLOMATIC HELP: *Egypt proposes cease-fire in Israel-Hamas fighting. D1*

County council moves toward agreement with 'Project Eagle'

Final reading on sales tax referendum question tonight

BY STEVEN BRADLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — After more than two and half hours in executive session Monday, Oconee County Council emerged from what chairman Joel Thrift said were "productive" discussions on three economic development matters.

On the second matter, council authorized county administrator Scott Moulder to "work with legal counsel to draw up an agreement regarding 'Project Eagle' as discussed in executive session."

No action was taken on the first matter, and council instructed Moulder to proceed on the third matter as discussed behind closed doors. District 5 councilman Reg



Dexter was the lone opposition to the latter instruction, while the other two motions were unanimous.

Afterward, Thrift offered no further comment other than to say the discussions were "productive." He declined to offer specifics on any of the matters, citing the need for anonymity for the parties with which council is negotiating.

The economic development matters were the only items

on the agenda for Monday's special called meeting, and after calling the meeting to order, council departed for executive session with Thrift quipping, "It may take 15 minutes; it may take three hours."

His latter estimate was much closer to being accurate. As previously reported by The Journal, the economic development matters were

SEE QUESTION, PAGE A6

Oconee petitions court on new jail property

County seeks to close portion of street needed for project

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County is seeking court action to have a portion of Laura Lane closed in preparation for the building of the new jail.

In a lawsuit filed last week, the county wants the court to "forever bar" the city of Walhalla and a private property owner from claiming any right or claim on the action to be taken.

The county is also petitioning the court to have "all easements and/or right-of-ways be extinguished" because they no longer would be required for the portion of Laura Lane that will be closed.

Walhalla is cooperating with the county in the matter. City administrator Nancy Goehle said Monday that city council approved first reading of an ordinance to deed a portion of Laura Lane to the county. A second reading of the ordinance was tabled in April and remains pending, Goehle said.

Councilman Tjay Bagwell, whose law

SEE MAIL, PAGE A5

Looking for love



JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL

Crossroads Animal Rescue board member Stephanie Stoneman pets Molly, one of a number of horses the organization is trying to find homes for. Molly has been tested and trained and would be good for a beginner rider, Stoneman said.

Crossroads Animal Rescue trying to find homes for animals

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — With a large number of unadopted animals, Crossroads Animal Rescue (CARE) is looking for the public's help in finding homes for pets in need, including cats, dogs and horses.

Stephanie Stoneman, a member of the CARE board of directors, said 98 percent of the animals in the program, which operates out of Crossroads Animal Hospital, are pulled from the Oconee County Animal Shelter and have been either scheduled to be euthanized or are neglect cases.

"All of the horses we get are com-

pletely starved, emaciated," Stoneman said. "In January, we got seven in at one time. I think all of them have been adopted, but unfortunately since then we've gotten a whole new crew."

Stoneman, who is also a veterinarian assistant at Crossroads, said the

SEE ANIMALS, PAGE A5

Drug case pending against Purple Haze owner

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The owner of a business on West North First Street that has been called a "public nuisance" by Seneca's police chief is still awaiting trial on a drug-related arrest from a year ago.

A grand jury in Oconee County indicted Sabrina Dawn Jenkins, owner of Purple Haze body piercing and gift store, at 722 W. North 1st St., exactly one year ago today on a charge of illegally possessing a controlled substance. The indictment reads that Jenkins "on or about March

Two announce for Keowee Fire District

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Two candi-

seeking public office for the first time. Both the Keowee Fire District commis-

graduate of Suffolk University in Boston. He has been active in the commu-

board of directors. Locally, he has served in numerous leadership positions for the Marine Corps League. Our



Morning News

TUESDAY JULY 15, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Heavy thunderstorms.
High 94 Low 69
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

City of Florence growing steadily

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The city of Florence is growing each month as more county residents and land are annexed into the city.

The growth is fueled by better information on city benefits and

the unknown of county taxation. The city council approved several parcels for annexation Monday and has several more ready for next month.

Every month since January, there has been a first or second reading for property annexations into the city, and that trend is not slowing down. In fact, since Feb-

ruary, 32 — predominantly residential — parcels have moved into the city.

Council unanimously approved seven parcels on Monday and gave unanimous first reading to six more. Some annexations have closed doughnut holes in the city's somewhat pockmarked map. Others have

incrementally grown that map. Whether it was the new Academy Sports + Outdoors shopping center, the NewSpring Church site on North Cashua or a house in a west Florence neighborhood, Mayor Stephen J. Wukela calls it positive for the city.

"We are going to provide the services they're getting over

there cheaper than they would get otherwise," Wukela said. "There's this political element going on over there (west Florence), and there's concern about what the county is doing, and I think that plays a role as well."

Taxation issues have county

See **FLORENCE**, Page 3A

Four Democrats seek vacant Senate seat

BY CHRISTOPHER MCKAGEN
Hemingway Editor
cmckagen@florencenews.com

KINGSTREE — A four-way race officially began Monday when the filing period for the vacated S.C. Senate District 32 seat closed at noon. Two S.C. House of Representatives members and two Williamsburg County attorneys will make up a Sept. 2 primary ballot, aiming to fill the seat Lt. Gov. Vance McGill left a month ago to replace a resigning Glenn McConnell.

Three of the candidates filed in Williamsburg County, while a fourth filed in Georgetown County. No candidates filed in the remaining counties of the district, including Florence, Horry and Berkeley, according to the respective county voter registration offices. All four of the candidates are Democrats.

House District 103 Rep. Carl Anderson and District 101 Rep. Ronnie Sabb filed last week. Lake City lawyer Cezar McKnight, who lost to McGill in the 2012 election by just 81 votes, as well as Kingstree attorney Sam Floyd also filed last week, according to Priscilla Cooper, Williamsburg County Election Commission chair. No petition candidates filed for the election, she said.

McKnight, who announced his candidacy when McGill rose to the lieutenant governor's office June 18, said his goal was to continue the grass-roots campaign that nearly put him in office two years ago.

"Right now, we're focused on reaching out to the various areas of the district to get support from the people who supported us previously, and to get support from the people who didn't support us previously," he said. "We want to be all inclusive. This is a campaign for the betterment of all the people in District 32. I know last time some people didn't support us, and I'm looking forward to going out ... and hopefully gaining their trust and confidence."

The only candidate to file in Georgetown County, Anderson joined McGill in his first public appearance as the state's No. 2 politician when the town of Hemingway celebrated its 100th birthday on June 22. He, too, announced his candidacy on June 18.

"Over the past 10 years, I have



Florence Fire Department driver Kevin Coleman (left) talks with students from Florence Christian Summer Day Camp.

A DAY AT THE STATION



ABOVE: Florence Fire Department driver Trent Gore talks about the various equipment used by the fire department. RIGHT: Florence Fire Department driver Kevin Coleman talks with students on Monday.

Students from Florence Christian Summer Day Camp visited Joseph McKain Fire Station One on Monday. More than 50 students from first to sixth grade learned about the fire department as part of a field trip. Firefighters showed the students equipment that they use, the firehouse and trucks.



PHOTOS BY JOHN D. RUSSELL / MORNING NEWS

Body of missing Darlington boater recovered

from staff reports



DARLINGTON — The body of a 49-year-old Darlington boater who went missing Saturday night on the

ry, Hardee said. According to Darlington County Sheriff Wayne Byrd, the 49-year-old Darlington man was fishing on the river with his son-in-law Saturday.



Odd

100

OBJECTS
IN 100 DAYS

DAY 30

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TheTandD.comTHE STARS WILL SHINE
IN THE TWIN CITIESMLB All-Star Game set to begin
tonight at 6 p.m. on FOX, B2

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014

The Times and Democrat

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Part of the solution

Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office Director of Victim's Services Chandra McPherson leads a discussion about the Sheriff's Office at the North Town Hall on Monday afternoon. LARRY HARGENTSheriff's Office asks for public's help
combatting drug-related crimeBy GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

NORTH — Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office officials are encouraging residents to help law enforcement stop crime in their neighborhoods by being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity.

"The thing that helps a community out is for people to give information to law enforcement," Narcotic Investigations Lt. Martin Journey said at Monday's "Meet the Sheriff's Office" meeting at North Town Hall.

"It is better to give more detailed

information. There are a lot of things we don't see out there. We only have so many people," he said.

Journey said the public should give law enforcement details such as the place of the activity, types of vehicles, license plate numbers, names and nicknames.

He said it is estimated that about 75 percent of the thefts in the county are drug-related.

"Orangeburg is no different than any other county," Journey said. "Everybody has got problems. There drug areas and illegal things going on. It is bad everywhere."

Journey said the two drugs on the rise in the county are methamphetamine and heroin.

He said meth is now being cooked in cars and in the woods, making it harder to stop.

"They are not making them in the residences anymore," he said.

Meth and heroin are particularly challenging, Journey said. He says the more the federal government controls prescription pills, the more heroin use increases.

"They are all bad, but with meth and heroin, the big difference is when these individuals get on it, it is very

difficult to get off of it," Journey said.

Journey was among several presenters from the Sheriff's Office to speak to North Town Council members and members of the public about the services provided by the Sheriff's Office.

It is the second such meeting of the Sheriff's Office with the public in the county this year. Orangeburg County Sheriff Leroy Ravenel was not in attendance because he was at a sheriff's

See CRIME, A3

Ravenel
presents
signatures
for SenateBy JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Former South Carolina Treasurer, reality TV star and convicted felon

Thomas Ravenel plans to run for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Republican Lindsey Graham.



Ravenel presented about 16,500 signatures from registered voters to the state Election Commission on Monday, well over the 10,000 he needed. If the commission verifies the signatures, he will be an independent on the November ballot against Graham, Democratic state Sen. Brad Hutto and Libertarian Victor Kocher.

Ravenel, a millionaire developer with a famous family name in South Carolina, told reporters his plans to deliver the signatures in advance, and television news cameras buzzed around him. He en-

See SENATE, A3

Consolidation
hearing planned
for North schoolBy MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Lawmakers will hold a public hearing in North next week on school consolidation plans.

"I'll have a meeting on July 22, next Tuesday, at Dover Elementary," Rep. Russell Ott, D-St. Matthews, announced during Monday night's meeting of the Orangeburg County Legislative Delegation.

"It's basically a public hearing," he said.

He said the meeting begins at 6 p.m. and the public is encouraged to participate.

Orangeburg County's senators introduced a bill in May to consolidate the county's three school districts into one. The

Davis thanked for 21 years of service to Orangeburg

By RICHARD WALKER
T&D Staff Writer

At moments it was a roast and other times there were genuine tears of thanks.

More than 150 friends, family and well-wishers came out Monday to wish retiring Orangeburg County Sheriff of Public Safety Chief Wendell Davis.



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