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Wednesday, March 23, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Scale of dual Belgium attacks shocks Europe

Authorities ask for calm, 'solidarity' — and leads on bombing suspects



GEERT VANDENWUNGER/LEAP

A man looks at flowers and messages Tuesday outside the stock exchange in Brussels. Explosions rocked the Brussels airport and subway system Tuesday, killing at least 34 people and injuring scores. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks.

BY RAF CASERT
and RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in back-to-back bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that again laid bare the continent's vulnerability to suicide squads.

Bloodied and dazed travelers staggered from the airport after two explosions — at least one blamed on a suicide attacker and another apparently on a suitcase bomb — tore through crowds checking in for morning flights. About 40 minutes later, another rush-hour blast ripped through a subway car in central Brussels as it left the Maelbeek station, in the heart of the European Union's capital city.

Authorities released a photo taken from closed-circuit TV footage of three men pushing luggage carts in the airport, saying two of them apparently were suicide bombers and that the third — dressed in a light-colored coat, black hat and glasses — was at large. They urged the public to reach out to police if they recognized him. The two men believed to be the suicide attackers apparently



BELGIAN FEDERAL POLICE/LEAP

The three men who are suspected of taking part in the attacks at Belgium's Zaventem Airport are seen in an image from Belgian authorities. The man at right is still being sought by police. The two others were, according to Belgian prosecutors, "probably" suicide bombers.

were wearing dark gloves on their left hands, possibly to hide detonators.

In police raids Tuesday across Belgium, authorities later found a nail-filled bomb, chemical products and an Islamic

State flag in a house in the Schaarbeek neighborhood, the state prosecutors' office said in a statement.

Please see BELGIUM, Page A7

Cross High grad Vernon Taylor, who plays basketball in Belgium, 'shaken' by bombings

BY JEFF HARTSELL
jhartsell@postandcourier.com

Vernon Taylor woke Tuesday morning in Belgium to a text from a teammate.

"Did you hear about the bombing?" his teammate wanted to know. Taylor, a Cross High School graduate who plays professional basketball in Belgium, spent the

rest of the day immersed in the news that shook Belgium and the world — terrorist bombings in Brussels killed at least 34 people and injured dozens of others.

"It happened about seven to 10 minutes away from us," said Taylor, who plays for Kangoerdes Basket in Willebroek, just outside of the Belgian capital of Brussels. "People are shaken up, they are frightened.

The government in Belgium has cut off all cellphone use, so people don't really know if family members are safe. It's crazy."

Taylor, who graduated from Cross in 2006 and played college basketball at Spartanburg Methodist and Troy University, said he was able to make cellphone calls

Please see TAYLOR, Page A6



Taylor

Domestic violence expansion in court

Case seeks inclusion of same-sex couples

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina Supreme Court on Wednesday will hear an argument to expand the state's domestic violence laws to same-sex couples.

Attorneys Bakari Sellers and Alexandra Benevento in August requested the hearing after a woman, who is remaining anonymous, was denied a protection order by a Richland County court after being hit and choked by her ex-fiancee, who is also a woman. The lawyers say the state's law violates the Fourteenth Amendment because it does not protect same-sex, unmarried couples.

"We're asking the court to ensure that same-sex couples receive the same protections that heterosexual couples receive," Sellers said.

The state's domestic violence law, as written, does not apply to a man or woman who is battered by a partner of the same sex if they aren't married. "Victims are defined in the law as a 'household member' who is a spouse, a former spouse, persons who have a child in common or a male and female who are cohabiting or formerly cohabited.

Please see VIOLENCE, Page A8

PC Poll
Do you think South Carolina's domestic violence law is unconstitutional? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Goff's former parishioners in Columbia deny defaming him

They say they just want financial records

BY JENNIFER BERRY HAWES
jhawes@postandcourier.com

The Rev. Dr. Norvel Goff is suing 18 members of his past church for defamation and negligence, but they contend they are private citizens who simply want to see their own church's financial records.

Goff served as interim pastor of Emanuel AME for seven months after an avowed white supremacist allegedly gunned down nine worshippers, including the church's pastor, last summer. Goff oversaw millions of dollars in donations that poured into the church from mourners across the globe.

He now is running for bishop and continues to serve as presiding elder of the AME district that includes Emanuel.

Before assuming that post, he was pastor of Reid Chapel AME Church in Columbia. For two years, about a



Goff

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Weaknesses of airports exposed. **A6**

Charleston airport urges travelers to be aware. **A6**

U.S. steps up security. **A7**

Editorial: Unite now to defeat ISIS. **A14**

PC Online

To see more photos from the attacks in Brussels, go to postandcourier.com/galleries.

To see video of the attacks, go to postandcourier.com/videos.

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forecast. **B10**

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Charleston Deals Today

Lowcountry Wingapalooza
\$35 for two tickets
(valued at \$50). See **A2**



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BUSINESS, 15A
**Charleston
Cooks to
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The Greenville News

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WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 23, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM



Chuck and Colleen Hinton attend a vigil for Officer Allen Jacobs at Cleveland Park on Tuesday.

LAUREN PETRACCA/STAFF

Alleged intruder shot by business founder

RON BARNETT
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Allen Stephenson, the founder of a clothing company that has been ranked by Forbes Magazine as one of the most promising companies in America, was the homeowner who shot and killed an alleged intruder at his Altamont Road home on Saturday, according to an attorney for the young entrepreneur.

The victim in the fatal shooting has been identified as Matthew Whitman, 32, of Nature Trail, Greenville.

Deputy William Douglas, a spokesman for the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, said the incident is still under investigation and additional details had not been released by late Tuesday.

The Greenville News has submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for a copy of the incident report and recording of the 911 call.

The Sheriff's Office had refused to release the identity of the shooter pending the outcome of the investigation, saying that since the investigation may determine him to be the victim, his identity would be shielded.

Coroner Parks Evans initially released an incorrect address in his media release on the death, and the Sheriff's Office did not release the address, only that it was in the 200 block, when it first put out word about the shooting.

Attorney Sloan P. Ellis identified Stephenson as the homeowner involved. He told The Greenville News that Stephenson is the founder of Southern Tide, which manufactures high-end polo shirts and other garments.

In a statement, Ellis said Stephenson was attacked at his home by a man he didn't know.

"After repeated requests by Mr. Stephenson, the individual, later identified as Mr. Whitman, would not leave. Instead, he became hostile, and attacked Mr. Stephenson with a knife."

"Mr. Stephenson had no alternative but to defend himself with his shotgun," the statement says.

The autopsy showed that "multiple" shots had been fired, but the coroner said he couldn't say how many or where the wounds were while the investigation is ongoing. Toxicology

See INTRUDER, Page 11A

Police, community mourn together

ANNA LEE
ZLEE@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

To those who gathered at Cleveland Park to heal and to mourn Tuesday, Greenville Police Chief Ken Miller said: "This event is about us."

Hundreds stood together at a public vigil to remember Officer Allen Jacobs, who was fatally shot in the line of duty last Friday. A number in the crowd were officers in uniform, many representing law enforcement agencies from across the Upstate.

There were firefighters and city officials, chaplains, dispatchers. There were joggers and dog walkers. And then there was Alice Davis.

The night before he died, Jacobs responded to a call on Anderson Road for a disturbance. The caller was Davis, who said she was cleaning a vacant house when she was confronted by a man who wanted to talk to her employer. The man refused to leave the house, so Davis called for help, and Jacobs came to her aid.

"I never in my life met an officer who was so polite," Davis said. "He gave me his number and told me to call him if I had to come back to the house the next day and that he would meet me there."

See VIGIL, Page 11A

"I never in my life met an officer who was so polite. ... He brought some light to me."

ALICE DAVIS

A RESIDENT WHO WAS HELPED BY OFFICER JACOBS THE DAY BEFORE HE DIED



See video and photos from the vigil, as well as other coverage of the officer's shooting death at GreenvilleOnline.com.

Upstate university students have ties to Brussels

NATHANIEL CARY
NCARY@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

One Clemson University student is studying in Brussels this semester and a second was visiting the city, a Clemson University spokesman said today.

Both students are safe, said John Gouch, Clemson spokesman.

One is studying at the Université catholique de Louvain while a second student is studying in Spain but was vis-

least 150 people, USA Today reported.

Brussels has been a key destination for Furman University students involved in international study abroad programs, but no Furman University students or faculty are currently in Brussels, said Brent Nelsen, a Furman political science professor who directs the study abroad program in Brussels.

Furman has a group of 27 students signed up to study in Brussels in the fall, Nelsen said. He was meeting with the university president and others to dis-

"We have made no decisions at this point."

Nelsen said the familiarity of the attack sites was startling. He said he spoke with friends in Brussels whose housemate was in the airport about 100 yards from where the bomb went off.

"When you hear stories of people who have had a close call, when you see pictures on the Internet or on TV of places that you passed by just three months ago, that really drives it home," he said.

Nelsen led a group of 20 students in

is extremely valuable to students.

"I know how important it is to high quality education to get students overseas and to expand their world and get them into an internship in an international setting. I know what that does for the maturity and I see the academic benefits," he said. "And for these terrorist attacks to throw all of that into question just makes me very angry."

USA TODAY



**Easter Bunny visits
Aiken residents, 2A**



**Former world champ
returns to boxing, 1B**

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WEDNESDAY, March 23, 2016

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Heart over hate

Belgians mourn Brussels bombing

BY RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — A pedestrian strip outside the stock exchange in Brussels became a colorful canvas of support and defiance after Tuesday's deadly bombings as those wanting to show solidarity chalked messages—in French, Flemish, English, Arabic and Cyrillic script and more.

INSIDE
ISIS claims
responsibility
for attacks in
Belgium, 12A

A few thousand people were gathered at Brussels' Place de la Bourse late Tuesday to draw more messages and lay candles. One group broke into Edith Piaf's "Hymne à l'Amour" (Hymn to Love) as onlookers applauded. Next, they broke into the Belgian national anthem, in both the country's national languages—French and Flemish.

Many of the drawings were joyous, with slogans like "spread love," "Live and Let Live" and "we are one." Others took a more defiant tone, and the vibe was generally upbeat.

But at the margins, there was sadness. One woman sat against a concrete planter at the edge of the square and sobbed quietly.

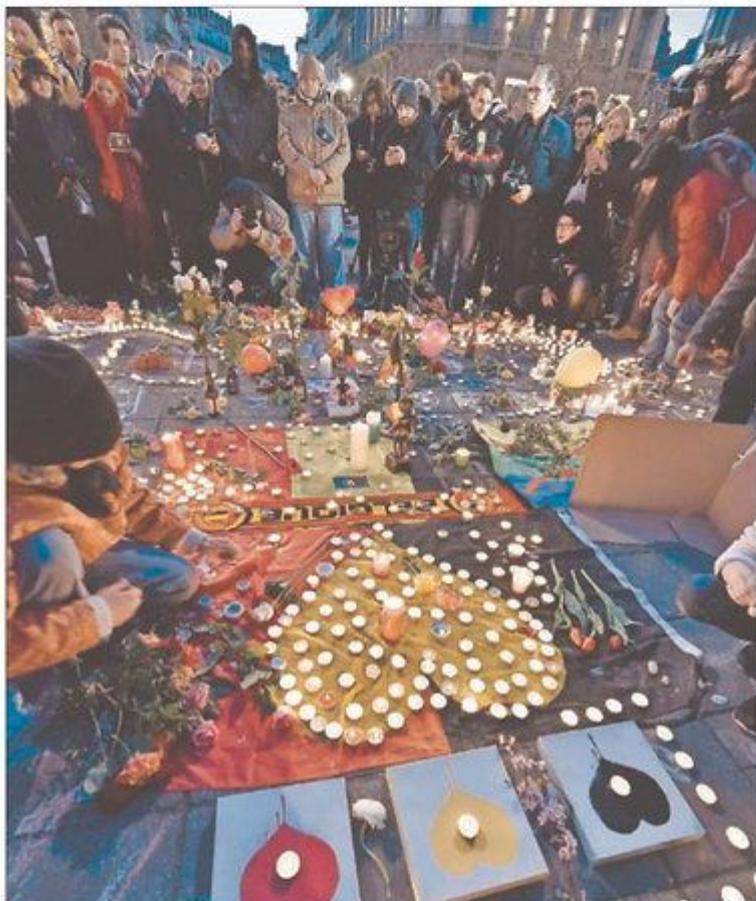
The messages ran from the political—"Stop this war in Syria"—to the peaceful—"Love is my religion." Some were simply raw—"I'm scared."

At the center of the square, a memorial was improvised out of flags, tea lights, balloons, flowers and—because this is Belgium—beer bottles. Some laughed with friends. Others cried quietly alone or on their partners' shoulders.

Pepijn Kennis, 27, had tears in his eyes as he and his girlfriend drew the words "Hart Bove Haat" (Heart over Hate) in pink and yellow chalk in front of the Bourse. Kennis said he was distraught by the sight of soldiers and heavy weaponry now commonplace across the capital.

"The minute we put soldiers in the street, they've won," he said.

Please see **MOURN**, Page 12A



AP PHOTO/MARTIN MEISSNER

People put candles on painted hearts with the Belgian colors to mourn for the victims at the Place de la Bourse in the center of Brussels on Tuesday. Bombs exploded at the Brussels airport and one of the city's metro stations Tuesday, killing and wounding scores of people, as a European capital was again locked down amid heightened security threats.



GALLERY

See more photos from the Brussels bombing online at www.aikenstandard.com



KETEVAN KARADJUR/GEORGIAN PUBLIC BROADCASTING VIA AP

Injured women are seen in Brussels airport in Brussels, Belgium, after bombs exploded Tuesday.



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBISAK

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., stopped by the *Aiken Standard* on Tuesday to talk about the Belgium terror attack, 2016 election and MOX.

Graham: 'We're at war' with ideology, not Islam

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
AND THOMAS GARDINER
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Lindsey Graham didn't mince words hours after the Belgium terror attack that claimed more than 30 lives Tuesday, and injured dozens more at the Brussels airport and metro station.

The U.S. Republican senator from South Carolina made it clear to the *Aiken Standard* in a sit-down interview: the

U.S. is not at war with Islam, but an ideology.

"I think we've been at war since 9/11," Graham said. "Name one person in the entire Congress who's been more outspoken than I have about the nature of the war. It's a war against an ideology. There's no capital to conquer in terms of winning the war. There's no Air Force to shoot down, there's no Navy to sink."

Bombs exploded early Tuesday at the Brussels airport and one of the city's metro stations, locking down the European capital and raising security threats and concerns both in Belgium and abroad.

The two airport blasts, at least one

Please see **GRAHAM**, Page 12A

AREA DEATHS

Darlene Davenport, Ridge Spring
Diane Bates, Jackson
Eddith Yelton, Williston
Patrick "Pat" Baxley, Beech Island
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

'Companies see the virtues of this area'

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

AUGUSTA — Preparing a workforce to fill 37,000 job openings within and surrounding a five county region of South Carolina and Georgia will require an investment between \$1.5

Former secretary of education addresses workforce summit

What will bridge the gap is a "clear signal from the business industry," lowering his keynote speech at the 2016 Regional Workforce Summit held in

the virtues of this area of Georgia and South Carolina so you've got this great place to live, a wonderful environment for families, it's just a question of readiness."

Regional employers have been tasked with filling the openings — 7,000 of which are new jobs — growth

the Sumter ITEM

PANORAMA

Exhibition features early rock 'n' roll giants by photographer Ed Gallucci C1

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Islamic State claims deadly bombings in Brussels

Morning explosions rock airport, subway station, prompting lockdown

BRUSSELS (AP) — Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in back-to-back bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that again laid bare the continent's vulnerability to suicide squads.

Bloodied and dazed travelers staggered from the airport after two explosions — at least one blamed on a suicide attacker and another reportedly on a suitcase bomb — tore through crowds checking in for morning flights.

About 40 minutes later, another blast struck subway commuters in central Brussels near the Maelbeek station, which sits amid the European Commission headquarters.

Authorities released a photo taken from closed-circuit TV footage of three men pushing luggage carts, saying two of them apparently were the suicide bombers and that the third — dressed in a light-colored coat, black hat and glasses — was at large.

They urged the public to contact them if they recognized him. The two men thought to be the suicide attackers apparently were wearing dark gloves on their left hands.

In police raids across Brussels, authorities later found a nail-filled bomb, chemical products and an Islamic State flag in a house in the Schaerbeek neighborhood, the state prosecutors' office said in a statement.

In its claim of responsibility, the Islamic State group said its members detonated suicide vests both at the airport and in the subway, where many passengers fled to safety down dark tunnels filled with hazy smoke from the explosion in a train pulling away from the platform.

European security officials have been bracing for a major attack for weeks and warned that IS was actively preparing to strike.

The arrest Friday of Salah Abdeslam, a key suspect in the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris, heightened those fears, as investigators said many more people were involved than originally thought and that some are still on the loose.

"In this time of tragedy, this black moment for our country, I appeal to everyone to remain calm but also to show solidarity," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, who announced three

SEE BELGIUM, PAGE A6

City honors Rev. Clark



Nickie Rogers, Betty Deas Clark, Sumter Mayor Joseph McElveen, Bernice Montgomery and Sheron Deas chat after the City of Sumter presented awards to Clark for her service to the Sumter community at City Center on Tuesday. Clark was the pastor of Mt. Pisgah AME Church and worked to build community relations.

New pastor at Mother Emanuel returns for visit

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

A warm welcome greeted the Rev. Betty Deas Clark as she paid a return visit to the town where she was pastor of Mt. Pisgah AME Church for more than six years. Sumter Mayor Joe McElveen presented her the key to the city, and Sumter Chief of Police Russell Roark told of the bond they developed working to smooth the relationship between the police and a diverse community.

At a small reception next door to Sumter's opera house, a gathering allowed locals to pay their respects to Clark, who seemed slightly embarrassed by the attention directed her way.

"Clark contributed greatly to the welfare and well-being of our community," McElveen said, recalling how she offered her service to the town and worked as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

"It's not an easy job," he said. "You have to tell people what they can and cannot do with their property."

She handled it with distinction and honor, he said.



The Rev. Betty Deas Clark is surrounded by media as she prepares for an interview at City Center in Sumter on Tuesday afternoon.

But even when she's back in Sumter, the new pastor of Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston must deal with the gaze of TV cameras and clip-on microphones. Clark copes with the ordeal with good humor, charm and grace, but living under the bright lights of national prominence has not yet become second nature to the woman

who grew up in Awendaw, a tiny coastal hamlet north of South Carolina's dynamic port city.

The shooting of nine people at a Bible study class at Mother Emanuel suspected to have been done by a young, self-avowed white supremacist on June 17, 2015, thrust

SEE CLARK, PAGE A6

County may close part of Old Clarendon Road

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

ing traffic. The system moves slowly and takes two to three hours to cross

Also, county council clerk Mary Blanding presented to council a four-page petition signed by com-





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INDEX-JOURNAL

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

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Gambrell, Burgess to face off in runoff

By **MATTHEW HENSLEY**
mhensley@indexjournal.com

State Rep. Mike Gambrell, R-Anderson, and Williamston Town Councilman Rocky Burgess will face off in a runoff election after neither received a majority of votes in Tuesday's primary to see who will represent the Republican Party in a special election

Unofficial results

- Mike Gambrell - 2,149
- Rocky Burgess - 1,505
- Tripp Padgett - 661
- Willie Day - 294
- Mark Powell - 109

for the District 4 state Senate seat.

The seat was left vacant after Sen.

Billy O'Dell, who had the seat for more than 27 years, died in January.

According to unofficial returns, Gambrell got 45.5 percent of the vote and Burgess took 31.9 percent.

Voters will decide which will be the Republican nominee in an April 5 runoff election. The special election will be May 17. As no Democrat is running, the Republican nominee

will be the only name on the ballot, which will have a write-in option.

Greenwood attorney Tripp Padgett, who came in third overall with 14 percent of the vote, took two-thirds of the votes in Greenwood County. The district is comprised of western Greenwood County, north-eastern Abbeville County and south-eastern Anderson County, with the

bulk of the district's voters living in Anderson County.

Retired Anderson neighborhood and transit director Willie Day came in fourth with 6.2 percent of the vote, and self-employed machinery repairman Mark Powell earned 2.3 percent.

"I'd like to thank all the voters for

See **RUNOFF**, page 5A

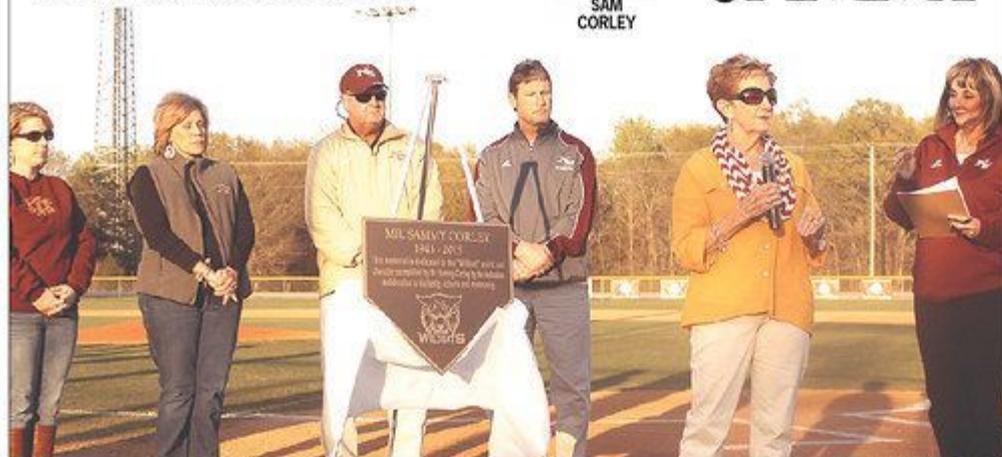


This plaque honoring the late Sammy Corley will be displayed at the Ninety Six High School baseball concession stands.

HONORING SAMMY



SAM
CORLEY



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER (INDEX-JOURNAL)

Ann Carol Corley, second from right, speaks to the crowd on Tuesday at Ninety Six High School after the baseball field was named in her late husband's honor. From left are Greenwood School District 52 school board member Debra Bolton, Ninety Six High School assistant principal Erin Watts, school board members Ronnie Peeler and Dayne Pruitt, and interim superintendent Sharon Wall.

School honors longtime Ninety Six resident

By **MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER**
mchristopher@indexjournal.com

NINETY SIX

Those who knew Sam Corley were honored to call him a friend.

Ninety Six's most decorated baseball player, who served his community on and off the field, had the field named after him on Tuesday, which will forever be known as Sam Corley Field.

"It's a way to honor to a man that dedicated his life to Ninety Six," said Mike Doolittle, Ninety Six High School athletic director. "He was an outstanding two-sport athlete in high school. He served on the school board from 1993 until he died in 2015. He was on the school board when I was initially hired here."

Corley's widow, Ann Carol Corley, said she was proud of the impact her husband had in the community.

"For me and my entire family, we cannot say thank you enough," she said. "Sammy did a lot for this community and school, but they have done a lot for him also, you included."

Ronnie Peeler, who served on the school board with Corley, said the tribute was fitting.

"Being the big baseball guy that he was, I think it's fitting that he served on the board as long as he did, that he supported athletics as much as he did. I know he went to

Standout athlete

Corley is the only six-time Wildcat baseball MVP in the school's history. He was an all-state baseball player in high school and played American Legion baseball from 1959-62. His No. 15 is the only one

See **SAMMY**, page 5A



AT THE STATEHOUSE

House OKs 2% pay hike

By **SEANNA ADCOX**
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina House voted Tuesday to provide state employees a 2 percent cost-of-living increase but rejected efforts to send more money to local governments.

The House voted 106-1 to designate an additional \$17 million in its spending proposal to pay for raises beginning July 1. The plan advanced by the chamber's budget-writing committee provided 1 percent. Advocates for state employees said that's helpful but not enough.

"We're doing the best we can," said Ways and Means Chairman Brian White, R-Anderson, noting the increase matches the 2 percent cost-of-living boosts the budget provides K-12 teachers.

It's possible because House GOP leaders are no longer seeking a \$130 million income tax cut. The balance made available by that decision went to road construction.

White fought back efforts from Republicans and Democrats to boost the "local government fund" — money distributed to counties and cities based on population that's supposed to cover expenses state government requires. The House budget maintains the fund at \$213 million. Under state law, it should be \$113 million more. But legislators have not followed that law since 2008.

Related

- Primary roads should get money, DOT director says, 3A



MANY WAYS TO ENJOY EGGS AT THE TABLE

FOOD & HEALTH, D1



USC'S WILSON POISED FOR RUN TO TOP

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Wednesday, March 23, 2016



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TODAY THU FRI

73°/51° 73°/52° 69°/43°

Complete forecast, B6

ONLINE



Photo galleries

Visit GoUpstate.com to view more images from the SCSDB Easter egg hunt and the terrorist attack in Belgium.

UPSTATE

Buffalo man arrested for sexual assault

The Union County Sheriff's Office has charged Buffalo man James Craig McMillian in the sexual assaults of three children in the 1980s. **C1**

CAMPAIGN 2016



Terrorism looms as candidates compete

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton fought to extend their delegate leads over underdog presidential rivals Tuesday in primary election voting across three Western states as the world grappled with a new wave of bloody attacks in Europe. **A5**

BELGIUM TERROR ATTACKS

At least 34 dead in Brussels bombings



People bring flowers and candles to mourn for the victims Tuesday at Place de la Bourse in the center of Brussels. Bombs exploded at the Brussels airport and one of the city's metro stations Tuesday, killing and wounding scores of people, as a European capital was again locked down amid heightened security threats. **MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

By Raf Casert and Raphael Satter
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Islamic extremists struck Tuesday in the heart of Europe, killing at least 34 people and wounding scores of others in back-to-back bombings of the Brussels airport and subway that again laid bare the continent's vulnerability to suicide squads.

Bloodied and dazed travelers staggered from the airport after two explosions — at least one blamed on a suicide attacker and another apparently on a suitcase bomb — tore through crowds checking in for morning flights. About 40 minutes later, another rush-hour blast ripped through a subway car in central Brussels as it left the Maelbeek station, in the heart of the European Union's capi-

Explosions rock Brussels

Bombs exploded Tuesday at the Brussels airport and in the city's subway, killing at least 34 people and wounding more than 180 people. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Brussels airport just after 8 a.m.
At least 11 people were killed and 81 were injured after two explosions ripped through the airport's departure area.



Maelbeek metro station just after 9 a.m.
At least 20 people were killed and more than 100 injured in an explosion on a train.

Source: Maps4News/HERE

The Associated Press

STUDYING ABROAD

Wofford students shaken but resolute

Johnson, Schweers thankful to be OK after terrorist attacks

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

Wofford College junior Tucker Johnson has never been more thankful to have been on a flight that arrived on time.

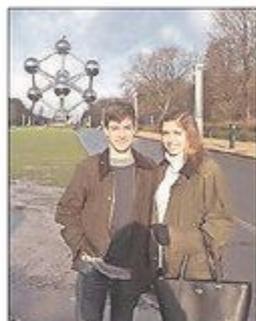
Johnson returned to Brussels, Belgium, on Monday afternoon. Less than 24 hours later, the Brussels Airport and other areas of the city were rocked by deadly terrorist attacks.

"Today was especially unnerving because I had been at the airport just yesterday morning returning from a trip. If I had come back one day later, I would've been at the airport today (Tuesday) around the time of the bombing," Johnson said. "We have to be careful and aware of our surroundings, but with terrorist attacks, you can never be prepared."

Tuesday's bombs tore through the airport and a city subway train. At least 34 people were killed, and hundreds more were wounded.

The attacks shut down the city. By afternoon, the Islamic State terrorist group had claimed responsibility for the attacks.

SEE ABROAD, A4





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Morning News

WEDNESDAY MARCH 23, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny, breezy and pleasant.
High 80, low 50.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Terror strikes in Brussels

Bombing attacks target airport, subway killing 34, wounding scores, Page 6A

Francis Marion's Camille Dash (4) drives past Alaska Anchorage's Keiahna Engel on Tuesday during their quarterfinal game at the women's NCAA Division II Elite 8 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D. UAA beat the Patriots 79-55, ending FMU's season.



DOUG CARLSON/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

Alaska Anchorage 79, FMU 55

Magic runs out

Francis Marion's postseason magic finally ran out Tuesday night. Alaska Anchorage pressured the Patriots the entire game and eventually pulled away for a 79-55 win in the women's NCAA Division II Elite Eight in Sioux Falls, S.D. The Patriots end their Cinderella run in the NCAA tournament with a 24-9 record, while the No. 4 Seawolves move on to the Final Four at 37-2. For a complete recap, see **Page 1D**.

Faith draws congregation together after church fire

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
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FLORENCE — More than 40 people stood Tuesday among piles of ash and debris that once was the New Life Assembly of God. They had gathered to support Pastor Burton Andrew Ross Jr. and honor him and his family's 30-plus years of service to the east Florence community.

A fire consumed the church at 610 E. Pine St. around 4:30 a.m. on Sunday. Investigators with SLED are working to determine the cause and origin of the fire. No one was injured.

The building was destroyed but by the looks of the congregation that gathered on Tuesday, their faith wasn't going to be.

Ross said the building embodied decades of "committed, joyful and tireless Christian work in this Florence community." His sister Jo-ann Ross said she is appreciative of those in the community who attended the gathering in their time of need.

"I'm truly grateful because we have a lot of the community people coming out and showing their support," Jo-ann said. "It's quite emotional."

Jo-ann Ross welled up with tears herself as she talked about the church and how she feels a piece of her father is still connected to the building. Through it all, Jo-ann said, she knows God always has a plan.

"We may not see it at the moment looking at all this rubbish, but I believe in my heart that whatever he does, he does it well

DANCING WITH THE STARS

Shining on center stage



Adam Crosson and Tiffany Welsh won the "Technical Skills Award" for their performance in Dancing with the Stars at SIMT on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN BAY/MORNING NEWS



Dancers inspire crowd to join in

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
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eted mirror ball trophy:

The dancers put their skills in jazz, salsa, jive and hip-hop to the test and showed off their personalities, all the while raising money for The School Foundation, which supports the students of Florence School District One.

FLORENCE — It was a night they had worked toward for a long time. Tuesday night, the 12 pairs of Dancing with the Stars

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