

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, May 23, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Monday, May 23, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Sex-trafficking indictment expanded

Suspect's trial delayed in second locally linked case, while sentencing scheduled in third

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

The sex-trafficking ring that was uncovered after an arrest at a North Charleston motel nearly two years ago was bigger than investigators initially reported, according to the U.S. Attorney General's Office.

has been delayed after he fired his lawyer, and a woman accused of being his partner has been released from jail in a plea agreement.

In yet another sex-trafficking case involving a Summerville man who was arrested in New Jersey, sentencing is set for this week.

The Post and Courier took an in-depth look at sex trafficking in South Carolina last September in the series "The Nightmare of Sex Trafficking."

Following is an update on three cases with local connections:

Sex ring expands

Damon Jackson, 22 at the time of his arrest nearly two years ago, displays a neck tattoo that says "Money Motivated" in his mugshot at the Charleston County Jail. An expanded indictment that was filed May 10 in U.S. District

Please see **TRAFFICKING**, Page A5



Damon Jackson (from left), Daewon Warren, Monique Lewis and Demetrius Hayward — suspects in three sex-trafficking cases with local connections.

'Short end of the stick'

Chicora-Cherokee neighbors watch warily as rail yard proceeds



Homeowner Penny Middleton discusses her concerns with the new rail yard that Palmetto Railways plans to build next to her home in the Chicora-Cherokee neighborhood Wednesday in North Charleston.

BY ROBERT BEHRE
and BRENDA RINDGE
rbchore@postandcourier.com
brindge@postandcourier.com

Penny Middleton knows she is getting a new neighbor — a sprawling \$280 million rail yard where cranes will shuffle containers between trains serving nearby container ships — but she's unsure what, if any, benefits it might bring.

"I don't mind economic development, but you need to bring something to the people who are here," she said recently outside her one-story home on Success Street. "It seems they always get the short end of the stick."

Middleton is among many residents of North Charleston's Chicora-Cherokee neighborhood who have been having conversations with Palmetto Railways Inc., a branch of the state Department of Commerce and the developer of

the rail yard just next door. These talks have covered how the rail yard will work, what negative effects might be unavoidable for the neighbors and what, if anything, can be done to lessen those effects. The conversation will continue Tuesday evening, as the Army Corps of Engineers holds an open house and public hearing regarding a crucial permit.

Please see **NEIGHBORS**, Page A4



Poll

Should the city and state do more to offset the harm a new rail line will do to North Charleston's Chicora-Cherokee neighborhood? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Earlier start for schools in fall?

County proposal meant to get buses running on time

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

Some Charleston County families will have to start their morning routines a little earlier this fall if the school district approves new start times that would affect 61 schools and programs.

Seeking to fix chronically late bus routes in some areas, the district's most recent proposal would make 57 schools open five to 65 minutes earlier. In Mount Pleasant, every elementary school would start at least 10 minutes earlier. In North Charleston, most elementary schools would change their start time from 7:30 to 7:25 a.m. District-wide magnet schools, which have always presented a transportation challenge, would all start the day at 8:30 a.m.

The most dramatic change to an earlier schedule would be at Murray LaSalle Elementary on James Island, where the start time would change from 8:30 a.m. this school year to 7:25 a.m. in the fall.

Meanwhile, 24 schools and programs would start later in the day. No high school students would have to attend school at an earlier time. The latest start time in the district would continue to be at Daniel Jenkins Academy, where classes start at 9:20 a.m.

In an recent presentation to the school



Online

To see the complete list of proposed start times for Charleston County schools, go to postandcourier.com.

N. Charleston, Dorchester Dist. 2 agree to build pool

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

North Charleston and Dorchester District 2 are ready to dive into plans for an aquatic facility on the west side of the city.

"We have been working with Dorchester 2 school district over the last couple of years with the idea of building a world-class aquatic center," said city attorney Brady Hair.

City Council on Thursday passed a resolution to enter into an agreement

with the school district to build the center — "an agreement to agree," according to Hair. The next step will be a more detailed use-lease agreement, he said.

Dorchester voters in November 2012 gave a nod to raising taxes to build a \$7.5 million facility as an addition to the 2012 Yes 4 Schools campaign, a \$179 million referendum to build and renovate schools. At the time, district officials and the

Please see **POOL**, Page A5

Inside



SPORTS

Stingrays one win away from second Kelly Cup Finals. **C1**

BUSINESS

Yik Yak co-founder, Furman grad talks tech scene. **D1**

Drone strike against Taliban signals a shift in U.S. tactics

BY MUJIB MASHAL
New York Times

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN — After months of failed Pakistani efforts to broker peace talks with the Taliban, a U.S. drone strike against the leader of the Afghan militants signaled a major break with precedent as the United States circumvented Pakistan in an effort to disrupt the strengthening insurgency, officials said on Sunday.

The Afghan intelligence agency said Sunday that the Taliban leader, Mullah

Mohammed Akhtar Mansour, had been killed in the strike in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan. The United States announced the strike Saturday but could not confirm that Mansour had been killed.

Although there was still no official reaction from the main Taliban spokesman, some Taliban command on Sunday denied the reports, saying their leader was not in the area of the strike.

Please see **STRIKE**, Page A5



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Complete 5-day
forecast, **B8**

Bridge — B7 Crossword — B6, C8 Scene — B1
Business — D1 Editorials — A10 Sports — C1
Classifieds — C7 Movies — B5 Sudoku — B5
Comics — B6, 7 Obituaries — B2 Television — B4



Woolfe Street Playhouse
\$20 for one ticket to Rock of Ages
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See **A2**



MAKING A GOOD IMPRESSION

COLLEGE BASEBALL

USC, Clemson eye strong performances at conference tournaments 1B



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TODAY: INCREASING CLOUDS HI 79 LO 58
YESTERDAY: HI 80 LO 59 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0"
FORECAST, 8C

The State

ELECTIONS IN RICHLAND COUNTY

Senators face primary challenges

BY AVERY G. WILKS
awilks@thestate.com

When S.C. lawmakers ponder court-mandated fixes to the state's public education system, Monica Elkins wants educators to have a seat at the table.

"So many times, we have the House members and senators

MORE INSIDE

Meet the Democratic candidates. 3A

making decisions for us, and they've never been educators," said Elkins, whose first term on the Richland 2 school board ends this year.

The former teacher and principal said giving educators a

seat at the table is why she is among three candidates running in the June 14 primary for fellow Democrat Mia McLeod's up-for-grabs S.C. House seat.

Elkins is running against pastor and chiropractor Ivory Thigpen and attorney Vannie Williams Jr. for the seat, which McLeod will leave as she tries to leap to the state Senate. Else-

where in Richland County, four Democratic lawmakers and one Republican House member have challengers in the June 14 primary.

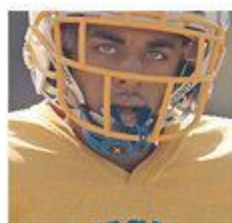
Among them, state Sen. John Scott, D-Richland, faces opposition from Richland County Council Chairman Torrey Rush, and state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, hopes to ward off a

second challenge from political activist Wendy Brawley.

FIGHT FOR AN OPEN SEAT

Democrats Elkins, Thigpen and Williams all think they have something to offer to constituents in McLeod's House District 79 seat in northeast Richland

SEE SENATORS, 7A



USC FOOTBALL

'CAN DO IT ALL'

2017 USC commitment Shawn Smith is the type of versatile receiver teams want. 1B



PALMETTO VOICES

A SUCCESSFUL TRANSPORTATION PENNY?

Richland County Councilman Paul Livingston says the facts show the county's controversial transportation penny is a success. 1C



About this story

This is second profile of three candidates seeking to become 11th Circuit solicitor. Read the first profile with this story at thestate.com.

Candice Lively is a candidate for 11th Circuit solicitor. She enjoys spending time with her children, Matthew, 12, and Bella, 10. Their dogs, Lila and Yoggi, join them.

Candice Lively at a glance

Personal: 46, married, two children, lives in Chapin area

Experience: Assistant public defender in Myrtle Beach area for one year, in private practice nine years, assistant prosecutor in the 15th Circuit in the Grand Strand five years, attorney at the University of South Carolina law school who trains police and prosecutors in investigating child abuse for three years

Education: Graduate of University of South Carolina with B.A. in English and then its law school

MORE INSIDE

Why this race is important, 7A

THE 2016 ELECTIONS

Lively makes change center of Midlands solicitor bid

BY TIM FLACH
tflach@thestate.com

Candice Lively is running for chief prosecutor in Lexington County and nearby areas as a political outsider with an insider's experience.

Lively, a former assistant prosecutor in the Grand Strand, is making change her main message as she tries to win a match against two challengers who once were aides to retiring Solicitor Donnie Myers.

Her criticisms of the way the four-county

11th Circuit office is run sometimes are subtle. But they signify a new style that could set her apart from the other Republicans vying to take charge of criminal convictions in the Lexington County-based circuit. No Democrats have filed in the June 14 primary races.

"It's really such a closed-off environment," she said of decisions that sometimes came without much notice and public explanation during Myers' lengthy tenure. "The circuit has not been running effectively for years."

SEE LIVELY, 5A

REDUCING RISK OF REJECTION



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY JONES
 Clemson researcher Andrew Tennyson and his team are developing a compound that would prevent the immune system from attacking implants.

Clemson research group receives \$500,000 grant for artificial joint replacement project

LIV OSBY
 LOSBY@GANNETT.COM

Artificial joint replacements have changed the world for countless people, offering them a chance at a new, more active life.

But inside the body, they can be viewed as invaders by the immune system. And that can cause them to degrade.

What if they could be imbued with a substance that would reduce the likelihood of that occurring?

A group of researchers at Clemson University is working on just such a project, which was just awarded a \$500,000 National Science Foundation grant.

"What happens when you have an artificial material that comes in contact with a biological system is... it triggers an immune response from the human body," said Andrew Tennyson, an assistant professor of chemistry at the school's College of Engineering and Science.

"There's a very fast response that puts on initial reaction layers from on in

"Any material will provoke this response," he said. "You can't avoid it unless you shut down the immune system. So all you can do is try to protect the materials from immune forces."

To do this, Tennyson and his team are developing a compound that would prevent the immune system from attacking the implants.

"We're working on adding a modification to the surfaces of materials that are used in these artificial implants, similar to a coating," he said. "A major goal for us is that we don't want to have the entire medical device infrastructure be revamped to handle new materials. We want to make a compound that you can attach to existing materials."

Revision surgeries

Every year, he said, more than 1 million Americans have a hip or knee replacement, and about one in 10 of them are revision surgeries—that is, an operation to replace the artificial joint for one reason or another, such as infection or wear.

And these revision surgeries are far more dangerous than the initial ones.



A compound Andrew Tennyson and his team are developing may one day change artificial joint replacements.

"We're working on adding a modification to the

Forecast gives legislators no surplus

Budget negotiations expected to go 'faster'

SEANNA ADCOX
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA - State economic forecasters foresee no extra money coming into South Carolina's primary coffers, giving legislators less to haggle over as the chambers negotiate a final spending plan.

The Board of Economic Advisors made no changes Thursday to its general fund revenue forecast for this fiscal year or next.

Collections are running both above and below estimates, depending on the tax, but "it looks like we'll end up close to the estimate," said Frank Rainwater, director of the state's Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office.

House and Senate leaders will attempt over the next two weeks to agree to a roughly \$7.5 billion state spending plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1. By law, the regular session ends June 2.

House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White said the lack of additional money should make negotiations "go a little faster."

The board's vote puts into question millions of dollars of spending the Senate added during floor debate earlier this month on the chance collections would exceed prior estimates. The board's May update often gives legislators additional money to spend. Last year, the board essentially handed legislators an additional \$300 million in discretionary spending for the 2015-16 budget. Much of that went toward roadwork.

Items in the Senate's \$40 million supplemental list that likely will be covered elsewhere in the budget include nearly \$12 million to finish reimbursing counties' clean-up expenses from the 2014 ice storm and \$4.3 million to the Department of Commerce toward renovating a freight railroad in Horry County. The House amended its budget plan Thursday to include that spending.

But various local projects on that supplemental list, including fire departments, museums and community centers — already opposed by some lawmakers as local pork — could get cut.

Advisers did increase estimates for lottery profits by \$35 million — \$20 million this fiscal year and \$15 million in 2016-17 — partly due to a recent flurry of Powerball ticket sales. However, state law limits that spending to college scholarships and education programs.

On Thursday, the House voted to set aside excess lottery profits to pay for additional scholarships expected to be awarded to students.

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, May 23, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Erosion increasing



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN BROWN

The erosion is beginning to eat away at a crease containing several types of mature trees, exposing their root networks until they eventually cave in and fall into the canyon.

Stormwater runoff damages Hitchcock Woods

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

Time is running out on Hitchcock Woods and the Sand River Canyon as seen with the rapid increase in erosion damage there.

The problem of erosion at Hitchcock Woods has been a problem for both Aiken and the historic urban forest for years. It is a problem that has been the subject of studies costing millions of dollars over the years with few useful solutions reached.

Yet, given the rate of recent development and the increase of stormwater runoff, the problem of erosion in the Sand River Canyon in Hitchcock Woods has reached critical mass, and it will only get worse unless something is done, and soon, according to Hitchcock Woods Foundation Executive Director Christine Rolke.

"You have to see the level of erosion firsthand to believe it," Rolke said.

Citizens have voiced their concerns to City Council for years, but little or nothing gets done, according to Rolke.

"You have to see it to believe it and once people see it, their



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN BROWN

Hitchcock Woods Superintendent Bennett Tucker and Professional Geologist Tim Mettlen look at recent erosion damage in the Sand River Canyon.

opinions change," she said. "Sand River is exactly what it says it is, a river of white sand, an ephemeral stream, the source of folklore and Indian legends, and one of the most beautiful and unusual features of Hitchcock Woods," Rolke said.

"It used to be way up there," Rolke said, pointing to the lip of the canyon more than 40 feet overhead. "It has been said that at one time earlier, Aiken residents were able to skip across the area where this canyon now stands."

Erosion eating away at Hitchcock Woods

The problem in Hitchcock Woods is erosion. Every time it rains, millions of gallons of stormwater pour into one of the nation's largest urban forests at a rate of more than 100,000 gallons per minute. According to a recent Clemson University study of the Sand River Hydrology Project by Dr. Christopher Post, principal investigator, and Kelly Kruener, project engineer, a recent late April

GALLERY
See more photos of the erosion online at aikenstandard.com

thunderstorm event dumped more than 35 million gallons of stormwater into Hitchcock Woods.

"Recently, we've been noticing further damage to the canyon walls from the rain and stormwater runoff in as little as two weeks," said Hitchcock Woods Superintendent Bennett Tucker as he pointed to rock and dirt debris mounds located at the base of the canyon walls. "You can see the cut where it has washed away. The erosion is about to encroach on some significant trees such as oaks, longleaf pines and sycamores. These are mature trees that we don't want to lose, plus it presents an obvious danger."

The City had, in recent years, erected fencing to keep the adventure seekers out of the Sand River Canyon, but now even the fences have fallen into the canyon, and the fencing erected to replace those threaten to follow its cousins into the ever-widening gorge.

"This is how far the canyon

Please see **EROSION**, Page 10A

Economic benefits, jobs possible with water parks, officials say

BY MICHAEL SMITH
msmith@aikenstandard.com

As Scuttle's Island works to calm the waters following news about a landowner affiliated with the project pleading guilty to fraud charges in Pennsylvania, water parks in general offer tangible economic benefits, sources familiar with the industry say.

"Kids love water parks. They're family destinations," said Myrtle Beach City Councilman Randal Wallace. "I would think the benefits would far outweigh any detractions about them."

Myrtle Beach is home to three water parks, including Myrtle Waves Water Park, which is managed by Innovative Attraction Management LLC, the same Florida firm that's managing Scuttle's Island.

Wallace thinks building a water park in North Augusta would entice more businesses to the area.

"It's a tourist attraction so it would put you on the map I would think," he said. "It's not like it's a big nightclub facility. Kids love the water park, you can't hardly control them when they get past the gate."

Myrtle Beach spokesman Mark Kruea said water parks generate a wide variety of tax revenues, including property taxes, admission taxes and hospitality taxes. Water parks also create jobs.

A Myrtle Waves news release from February said it is anticipating hiring more than 250 workers for the 2016 season.

The only drawback to water parks, Kruea said, is that most are seasonal. The 2016 operating schedule for Myrtle Waves is May 7 to Sept. 16, according to the Myrtle Waves news release.

"It's a little difficult to find something to criticize a business that does well. They definitely contribute to the local economy," Kruea said. "I don't know that we've experienced any noise issues from a water park. The parking is self-contained on the site. It's a great place to cool off in the summer time."

A group of investors calling themselves Cedar Rock Holdings LLC have plans to build the Scuttle's Island water park off Edgefield Road in North Augusta, just north of I-20 at Exit 5.

It was originally scheduled to open in May 2016, but construction has not begun. North Augusta City Administrator Todd Glover has said the park still must pass through additional planning stages.

Please see **PKRS**, Page 10A



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL SMITH

A for sale sign stands on property off Edgefield Highway in North Augusta that's been identified for the proposed Scuttle's Island water park. The property sold March 31 for \$2.2 million, according to Aiken County property records.

AREA DEATHS

Reginald Bailey, Aiken
Jimmy Chavous, Aiken
Willie "Gene" Benson, Aiken
Willie Trowell Jr., Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



\$5M DOE grant boosts area nuclear workforce

BY THOMAS GARDINER
tgardiner@aikenstandard.com

A substantial grant was awarded to the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization last week, giving the community more than just a considerable boost in programming funds.

The U.S. Department of Energy \$5 million grant was awarded for the

jobs in the nuclear workforce. It is a follow-on to a grant with the same goals that expires this year.

"The grant is designed to fund various nuclear training programs administered by the five colleges and universities in our region to make certain that local folks are qualified for jobs at the Savannah River Site," said David Jameson, president and CEO of the Greater Aiken Chamber

follow-on financial support possible, Jameson said.

Aiken Technical College President Dr. Susan Winsor said, "The Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers grant provides an opportunity to build a skilled workforce for the nuclear industry. As the current workforce begins to retire over the next several years, there will be an increased need for workers who have

ATC offers classes that support the nuclear technology industry, and its students will be important beneficiaries of the grant that will help see its goals come to fruition.

"Last year we built and opened our state-of-the-art Center for Energy and Advanced Manufacturing to provide students with a learning environment and industry-standard equipment that



'ANGRY BIRDS' SOARS TO TOP OF BOX OFFICE

BUSINESS, B7



WERENSKI CAPTURES BMW CHARITY PRO-AM

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, May 23, 2016



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TODAY TUE WED



78°/55° 83°/56° 87°/61°

Complete forecast, A10

IN BRIEF

1 killed, 3 hurt in 2-vehicle crash

A Spartanburg man was killed Sunday and three people were injured in a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Simuel Road and Business 85.

Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger identified the deceased as David Arnold Timmons, 65, of Ridgecrest Avenue in Spartanburg. Timmons was pronounced dead at the crash scene, Clevenger said.

The South Carolina Highway Patrol responded to the scene at 1:26 p.m. Sunday for a reported collision with injuries.

According to the Highway Patrol, Timmons was driving a 2008 Chevy pick-up truck northbound on Simuel Road with two passengers inside. Timmons failed to yield right of way when he attempted to turn onto Business 85 from Simuel Road. His vehicle was struck head on by a 2013 Kenworth Box Truck that was traveling southbound on Simuel Road, according to the Highway Patrol.

The Highway Patrol report said that two passengers in the pick-up truck and the driver of the Kenworth Box Truck were taken to Spartanburg Medical Center for treatment.

Campobello man dies in wreck

A Campobello man died Sunday evening in a single-vehicle crash at the intersection of Wilkins Road and Wilkins Hill Lane in Campobello, according to Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger.

The victim was identified as Jimmy Keith McCullough Jr., 53, of 492 Wilkins Road. The Coroner's Office said McCullough was pronounced dead at the scene. The South Carolina Highway Patrol is also investigating the crash, which occurred about 6 p.m.

—From staff reports

TALIBAN LEADER

Death seen as hopeful sign

By Lynne O'Donnell
and Mirwais Khan
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The killing of Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour in a U.S. drone strike was greeted Sunday by Kabul's political leadership as a game-changer in efforts to end the long insurgent war plaguing Afghanistan.

In a rare show of unity, President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah both welcomed the news of Mansour's death as the removal of a man who unleashed violence against innocent civilians

in Afghanistan and was widely regarded as an obstacle to peace within the militant group.

Mansour, believed to be in his 50s, was killed when a U.S. drone fired on his vehicle in the southwestern Pakistan province of Baluchistan, although there were conflicting accounts whether the airstrike occurred Friday or Saturday. He had emerged as the successor to Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar, whose 2013 death was only revealed last summer.

Mansour "engaged in deception, concealment of facts,

SEE TALIBAN, A7



This photo, taken Saturday, purports to show volunteers standing near the wreckage of the destroyed vehicle in which Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansour was allegedly traveling in the Ahmed Wal area in Baluchistan province of Pakistan, near the Afghanistan border. ABUL MALIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHILD ADVOCACY

Working to find more foster homes



The Kirby Family: John Tyler, Goldie, Brock, Kay, Tyler and Andrew. John Tyler and Andrew were foster children taken

LGBT RIGHTS
THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Boycott over LGBT law impacts more than music fans

By Anna Gronewold
The Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Stagehand Kery Eller doesn't own any Bruce Springsteen albums, but he would smash them if he did.

Eller says he expected to earn at least \$3,000 working the sold-out Springsteen concert and other high-profile shows around the state before artists canceled the events in protest over North Carolina's new LGBT law.

Eller and about 100 members of the local union of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees are among the many workers and businesses caught in the crossfire of the national debate over LGBT rights and feeling the economic shock-



SPORTS Despite confusion, NASCAR got a memorable All-Star Race. **Page 1B**

Morning News

MONDAY MAY 23, 2016

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Times of sun and clouds.
High 77, low 54.
DETAILS 2A

www.foxnews.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents



Each Monday, the Morning News features a good news story on a person, place or organization in the Pee Dee. If you have a suggestion for someone or something to profile, send it to news@foxnews.com.

Edaphell Gibbs said people must love others in order to have a career in the bus industry for as long as hers.



SHAMIRA MCCRAY/MORNING NEWS

Florence bus station employee still going strong after 5 decades

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — For some southeastern United States bus travelers, Edaphell Gibbs is a familiar face among the many other bus station workers encountered during trips. Having worked with the Florence bus station for 57 years, Gibbs has a wealth of knowledge about the

bus industry and has left a mark the lives of several people she's met.

Now 85 years old, Gibbs said she started working at the Florence bus station when it was on the corner of Coit and Front streets. The station moved to its current location at 611 S. Irby St. in 1960. The bus station now features Greyhound and Southeastern Stages Inc. lines.

Gibbs started working at

the bus station as a way to provide for her five children.

"I worked with the telephone company 12 years, and back then, it was so many operators and stuff, hours were not good. And with five children, you wanted to be home with them sometimes," Gibbs said. "So I applied for the one at the bus station, and

See **GIBBS**, Page 3A

Flood recovery

Seven months later, and a lot left to do

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dsweARINGEN@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — Last October, hours before floods devastated parts of South Carolina, Connie Parrott tidied her laundry room, next to her small, gray home on First Neck Road in Johnsonville.

As she picked up the piles of clothes strewn about the floor, she considered the chance of flooding to be slight.

It wasn't that she missed the flood warnings. It was that she had heard them before.

"You know, we had floods before. And so when they were hollering 'flood,' I didn't really think much of it," Parrott said. "But then part of me did. That's why I went in the laundry room, and I picked up everything out of that laundry room. 'Cause they said it was a bad flood."

As Parrott and her husband, Eugene, slept that night, the rain pelted her home, and the water in the Lynches River rose.

Although her house sits up on cinder blocks, 3 or 4 feet of water filled Parrott's home when she woke the next morning.

"I could not believe that it got that high. We always had floods, but it's never got that high," she said.

See **FLOOD**, Page 3A



Connie Parrott points to some of the damage to her home on First Neck Road in Johnsonville.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

Connie Parrott stands on the front steps of her Johnsonville home, which was severely damaged in the October flooding.

WANT TO HELP?

» To volunteer your time with the N.C. Baptist disaster relief team, stop by First Baptist Church in Johnsonville, visit www.ncmissions.org or call 1-800-395-5102, ext. 5599.
» Contact the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation to make a financial contribution to the Florence County long-term recovery group.

MEMBERS OF THE FLORENCE COUNTY LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUP

» Eastern Carolina Community Foundation
» NAACP
» National Action Network
» Southern Baptist Convention
» Highland Park Methodist Church in Florence
» American Red Cross
» United Way of Florence County
» Catholic Charities of the Pee Dee
» White Chapel Holiness Church of Johnsonville

Army monument being designed for Florence Veterans Park

Dan Garrison sits in a conference room at Brown



BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON
Morning News
MRobertson@foxnews.com

FLORENCE — The last of the U.S. military service branches

tion of the monument to the U.S. Army, all the services will be represented," said Barry Wingard, chairman of the veterans park committee.

It will join monuments for the

tative of the service branch and stand out for the thought, art and design that have gone into it.

"The monument is 9 feet tall," said Bran Oswalt with Brown Memorials. "It isn't very

LOCAL

Local senator opposes bill on open-records law due to cost 3A



LOCAL

A Hilton Head Island woman was killed in a zip line accident in Utah 3A



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON



Mostly sunny
80°/66° See 3A

THE ISLAND PACKET

NORTH CAROLINA

Boycott over LGBT law has ripple effect

Workers, businesses caught in the crossfire, feeling economic impact of canceled concerts

Impact could be felt for months as artists, agents waver on whether to schedule shows in N.C.

BY ANNA GRONWOLD
Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C.

Stagehand Kery Eller doesn't own any Bruce Springsteen albums, but he would smash them if he did.

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sold-out Springsteen concert and other high-profile shows around the state before artists canceled the events in protest over North Carolina's new LGBT law.

Eller and about 100 members of the local union of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees are among the many workers and

businesses caught in the crossfire of the national debate over LGBT rights and feeling the economic shockwaves from the growing number of canceled shows. Hotels, restaurants, bars and even community groups who work arena concession stands say they are suffering from the boycott.

"It's my livelihood; it's where I make my money," Eller said. "It's not just hurting the entertainment industry. It's hurting our state overall, period. And I'm not talking politically at all."

The wide-reaching law that directs transgender people to use the public bathroom that aligns with the sex on their birth certificate was signed by Repub-

SEE BOYCOTT, 11A



POLITICS

BENGHAZI FEUD RAGES ON

A comment by Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., chairman of the House Benghazi committee, stirs the bipartisan feud. 3A



Carrie Hirsch is one of eight finalists in Wild Wing Cafe's annual "Battle of the Bones" wing recipe competition decided by the public in a online vote. Her wasabi-based recipe, "Whoooa-Sabi," has been very well received.

Whoa! Area woman finalist in recipe contest

BY LIZ FARRELL



the good and the bad.

Recently, she made a red velvet cake for a friend's birthday, and she wanted it to be extra special. So she experimented, as she is known to do sans recipes, with a buttercream and cream cheese frosting, and



A batch of "Whoooa-Sabi"

JAY KARR | jkarr@islandpacket.com



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

EMBRACE AREA'S RICH HISTORY

The Original Gullah Festival of South Carolina is one of several events set for this Memorial Day weekend. 5B



SPORTS

KOEPKA'S SHOT AT WIN SINKS

Brooks Koepka hits into

Camlin Moore

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