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To:

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The Post and Courier

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Friday, July 1, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

City, C of C may join forces to fight drugs

Discuss task force, targeting issue on 'multiple fronts' in wake of startling drug-ring allegations

BY TONY BARTELME
and DOUG PAREKUE
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College of Charleston and city officials may form a task force to take a comprehensive look at student drug use in the wake of a report that fraternity members

and other young people operated major Ecstasy, marijuana and cocaine rings.

A Post and Courier investigation on Sunday, "Cocaine, pills and textbooks," revealed allegations that fraternity members used pledges as drug mules and sold hundreds of thousands of dollars in drugs just steps from campus.

In a statement posted Thursday on the College of Charleston's website, President Glenn McConnell said he was "extremely disappointed and saddened" that any former or current students might be involved in an organized drug network.

McConnell said the college is reviewing existing outreach and

student conduct policies. "If there is anything more that we can do as a university to discourage even one additional student from making a poor decision involving alcohol or drugs, we will do it."

He added that he recently met with Mayor John Tecklenburg and Police Chief Greg Mullen to find new ways to address the issue

"on multiple fronts," including the formation of a task force.

"The manufacturing and supplying of illegal drugs is a destructive and corrosive force in Charleston and in any community," McConnell said in the statement.

McConnell so far has not made



McConnell

Please see DRUGS, Page A5

College World Series

Reigning Chants



NATHAN HARRIS/AP

The Coastal Carolina baseball team is bringing home to Conway the school's first national championship in any sport after knocking off Arizona in Game 3 of the College World Series finals in Omaha, Neb., on Thursday. Chanticleers coach Gary Gilmore said, "We're not the most talented team in America. We're just the national champion. That's all that matters." For more on the game, see Page C1. To see more photos and a video, go to postandcourier.com/multimedia.

Big data may help get traffic flowing

S.C., Lowcountry can benefit from real-time look at congestion

BY ROBERT BEHRE
rbehre@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's highway planners have more insight than ever into how congested our roads are, thanks to the phones, navigation devices and other personal electronics that we carry with us in our cars each day.

And this data confirms what many Lowcountry commuters know too well: The Charleston metro area has many of the state's most clogged roads.

In fact, almost half of the 20 most congested interstate and non-interstate segments in the state are found in Berkeley, Charleston and Decker counties. U.S. Highway 17 between Interstate 26 and downtown Charleston and the Mark Clark Expressway at Interstate 26 sit atop the list.

And the data — mined from the same sources that are used to create the real-time television and smartphone maps with red-, yellow- and green-colored roads — also is providing insight into the success of road projects as well as other solutions to ensure that traffic continues to flow as well as possible.

And that will become an increasing challenge as South Carolina's economy continues to grow, said Dipak

Please see TRAFFIC, Page A6



Poll

Are you surprised the Lowcountry — with only about 15 percent of the state's population — has almost half of its most congested roads? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

Hazing, abuse inquiry targets Parris Island

Marine Corps looks into allegations tied to 15 drill instructors

BY SUSANNE M. SCHLAER
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The Marine Corps is looking into allegations of hazing, assault and physical abuse involving 15 drill instructors at Parris Island training depot in South Carolina, officials said Thursday.

The allegations stem from an investigation into the death of a Parris Island recruit in March. Maj. Gen. James W. Lukeman, the commander of Marine Corps training and education at Quantico, Virginia, said in a statement.

Rahed Siddiqui of Taylor, Michigan, 20, died after falling nearly 40

feet in a stairwell at the installation, the Naval Criminal Investigation Service has said.

Once the Marine Corps' investigations are complete, it will be up to Lukeman to determine "appropriate administrative and judicial actions necessary" based on the study's findings, the statement said.

A spokesman for Lukeman, Capt. Joshua Pena, said there was no time limit for the investigations to be wrapped up, or for Lukeman to take any disciplinary steps, should he decide to do so.

The two-star general said all of the Marines under investigation have been assigned to duties that do not involve recruits.

"The safety of the recruits and the integrity of the Marine Corps recruit training program are among our top

Please see MARINES, Page A6

Inside



STATE
Haley touts flood recovery on eve of application period for farm aid she opposed. **A5**

BUSINESS
Expect pricier restaurant tabs on James Island starting this weekend. **B1**

LOCAL
The Boulevard apartments' second phase coming soon to Mount Pleasant. **A3**

Military ending ban on transgender troops

Some leaders say more time is needed

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Saying it's the right thing to do, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced Thursday that transgender people will be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military, ending one of the last bans on service in the armed forces.

"Americans who want to serve and can meet our standards should be afforded the opportunity to compete to do so," said Carter, laying out a one-year plan to implement the change.

"Our mission is to defend this country, and we don't want barriers unrelated to a person's qualification to serve preventing us from recruiting

Please see TRANSGENDER, Page A6



ALEX BRANDOW/AP
Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced new rules allowing transgender individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military.



Chance of storms.
High 90, Low 75.
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B10**

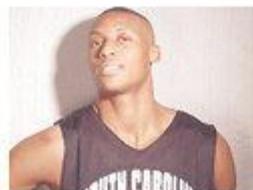
Bridge B9
Business B1
Classified B1
Comics B5-9
Cronowds B12B
Dear Abby B7
Editorials A8
Local A2
Movies B7
Obituaries B4
Sports C1
Television B6

Charleston Deals Today

Woolfe St. Playhouse
\$15 for one adult ticket to Red, White, and CASH at Woolfe Street Playhouse. See **A2**

GAMECOCKS BASKETBALL

Friends, teammates shocked at Rolando Howell's death, 3B



PRO FOOTBALL

Former USC QB Connor Shaw cut by Cleveland Browns, 2B



FRIDAY JULY 1 2016

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY, STORM POSSIBLE HI 95 LO 75 YESTERDAY: HI 99 LO 73 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.0" FORECAST, 30C

The State

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

COASTAL STARS LEARNED HOW TO WIN IN MIDLANDS



CONNOR OWINGS

Gilbert High

CWS STATS: 3-for-25, 3R, 3 RBIs, 2B

NOTE: Owings struggled at times in Omaha but led the Chanticleers in batting average all season. He went 2-for-4 with a run and two RBIs in an elimination game against TCU.

ANDREW BECKWITH

Blythewood High

CWS STATS: 3-0, 0.78 ERA, 14 Ks, 4 BBs

NOTE: Beckwith earned complete game wins over Florida and TCU and earned the victory in the title clinching win Thursday against Arizona.

MIKE MORRISON

Gilbert High

CWS STATS: 1-0, 3.65 ERA, 17 Ks, 7 BBs

NOTE: Morrison, CCU's closer, got the start in Game 2 of the championship series and pitched 6 2/3 innings, allowing two runs while striking out 10 in Coastal's 5-4 win.

Beckwith, Morrison, Owings: Recalling their early days on SC fields

BY MATT CONNOLLY mconnolly@thestate.com

Andrew Beckwith, Mike Morrison and Connor Owings became accustomed to winning while growing up in the Midlands. Just

After Arizona beat Coastal in Game 1 of the championship series, Morrison, a Gilbert product, helped keep the Chanticleers alive by throwing 6 2/3 innings while allowing two runs and striking out 10 in Game 2.

Owings, a fellow Gilbert alum, went 2-for-4 with a run and two RBIs in an elimination game



RICHLAND COUNTY

Judge: Ankle monitor program unlawful

Judge finds Richland County's ankle monitoring program not established in compliance with law

Critics said Solicitor Dan Johnson's program discriminates against poor and usurps judges' authority

BY JOHN MONK jmonk@thestate.com

A state judge's ruling Thursday that a Richland County ankle monitoring program was created unlawfully raises questions about what will happen to some 200 suspects now out on bond on the ankle monitors — and the program itself.

The program was implemented in 2014 by 5th Circuit Solicitor Dan Johnson after public outcry over several high-profile killings committed by defendants who were out on bond but not wearing ankle monitors.

In a four-paragraph ruling, Judge Clifton Newman on Thursday overturned two 2014 orders by another circuit judge, orders that allowed Johnson to set up an ankle monitoring program now in wide use in Richland County. Currently, some 200 defendants in criminal cases have posted bond, were released and are wearing ankle monitors.

Although ankle monitors can't prevent a crime, supporters of the program say they deter those wearing them because their movements are tracked minute-by-minute and they can be placed at the scene of a crime if they commit one.

Johnson indicated Thursday in an interview he may explore appealing.

"We have just received the order ... and we are reviewing it," Johnson said. "We believe strongly that electronic monitoring is a useful and effective tool to monitor defendants while on bond. It is being used all across the country."

In any case, ankle monitoring is required for only a small percentage of defendants who are released on bond, Johnson said.

SEE ANKLE, 6A

BUSINESS

TANEVILLI DRIVE



SPORTS TOUGH END TO SEASON



E GREENVILLE
Where to
have a blast
on the 4th

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,
JULY 1, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY OZONE HOLE BEGINNING TO CLOSE ABOVE ANTARCTICA PAGE 1B



Coastal Carolina players celebrate their 4-3 victory over Arizona to win the championship after Game 3 of the NCAA College World Series finals in Omaha, Neb., on Thursday.

TED KIRK/AP

CHANTICLEERS WIN 1ST NATIONAL TITLE

Coastal Carolina's 'team of destiny' brings crown to SC

ERIC OLSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. - Coastal Carolina coach Gary Gilmore often said he just wanted his team to reach the College World Series.

Until this week, he never imagined the Chanticleers would do so much more: They're heading back to Conway, South Carolina, with the school's first national championship in any sport.

The Chanticleers defeated Arizona 4-3 in the deciding Game 3 of the College World Series finals on Thursday, capitalizing on two errors on the same play to score four unearned runs in the sixth inning of a game delayed a day by bad weather.

It was worth the wait.
"Whenever I die, I'll know this group of guys here, they willed themselves to



Haley says state has largely recovered from flood

AVERY G. WILKS
THE STATE

COLUMBIA - South Carolina suffered roughly \$741 million in losses to housing, \$137 million in damage to state roads and more than \$200 million in damage to other public assets during the historic storm last fall, Gov. Nikki Haley announced Thursday.

But fixed roads and ongoing repairs to storm-damaged homes highlighted Haley's rundown Thursday of the state's triumphs after record rain on Oct. 4.

"We saw devastation like we had never seen, and we quickly got to work," Haley said.

Just 36 of 541 state roads closed by the storm remain closed, and two-thirds of those are related to an unstable dam, Haley said.

Hotel revenue is up 7.8 percent from last year, meaning 2016 will be the fourth straight year of tourism growth, she announced.

And the Haley-backed One S.C. Flood Recovery Fund has received nearly \$1.65 million in donations and \$12.7 million in donated skilled labor, she said.

Those donations have helped volunteer organizations rebuild or begin repairs to 1,100 homes statewide as S.C. officials await nearly \$157 million in federal flood recovery aid, she said.

"We weren't going to let people live like that. We knew that we had to fix it," Haley said. "The One S.C. Fund allowed us to go ahead and get these homes started. It's going to be several months, still, until we get the money that we need from HUD."

The storm left 19 dead and, at one point, 40,000 people without water, according to a release from the governor's office.

See FLOOD, Page 4A

Breakfast's on the house in schools

Program universal
in Greenville County

NATHANIEL CARY
NCARY@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

Greenville County Schools will offer free breakfast to all students beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the district announced.

Free breakfast will be offered at all 92 schools in the district, said Beth Brotherton, Greenville County Schools spokeswoman.

The move is the final cog of a three-



HALEY HAS NO REGRETS ABOUT PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

UPSTATE, C1



PHOTO EXHIBIT CAPTURES EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

UPSTATE, C1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, July 1, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN



91°/69° 91°/70° 88°/69°

Complete forecast, B8

CAMPAIGN 2016



Tiny fundraisers equal big money

In her bid for the White House, Hillary Clinton is using every fundraising technique at her disposal, including salon-style gatherings with elite donors. **A3**

SPORTS



Vikings win 7-on-7 tourney at Chapman

Spartanburg's defense stood tall and forced the Westside offense off the field with 51 seconds remaining to seal a 19-11 win in the championship game of the Panther Invitational on Thursday. **B1**

NEWS DIGEST

HLN's Nancy Grace leaving her legal show

NEW YORK — Tough-talking former prosecutor Nancy Grace is leaving her prime-time show on the HLN network in October.

The CNN sister station said Grace told her staff Thursday that her show would be ending after 12 years. Grace, 56, said in a statement that she'll be leaving "with a full heart and endless gratitude."

She hasn't announced any specific new plans, and HLN wasn't

IMPACT ON UPSTATE

Firms monitor Brexit fallout

Changes in trade deals could impact exports from SC

By Bob Montgomery
bob.montgomery@shj.com

Business leaders say Britain's vote to leave the European Union will not have an immediate impact on Upstate

companies with global ties, but uncertainty over reworked trade agreements could affect exports.

"BMW respects the British electorate's vote to leave the EU," said BMW Manufacturing spokeswoman Sky Foster. "While it is clear there will now be a period of uncertainty, there will be no immediate change to our operations in the UK."

Last week's vote by Britain

to leave the European Union caused a sharp sell-off in financial markets, which have somewhat recovered. Some economists said a turn toward protectionism by Great Britain could result in trade barriers and trigger a recession.

Several Upstate companies have ties to Europe, including Germany-based BMW, France-based Michelin and Japan-based Fujifilm and Toray Industries.

Foster said BMW continues to monitor developments in Great Britain.

"Today, we know that many of the relevant conditions for supplying the European market will have to be renegotiated, but of course we cannot say what this means for our UK operations until those future regulatory and legislative

SEE BREXIT, A4

Coastal Carolina crowned



ISTANBUL AIRPORT BOMBING

Attackers were from Russia, Central Asia

By Dominique Soguel and Suzan Fraser
The Associated Press

ISTANBUL — As the death toll from the Istanbul airport attack rose Thursday to 44, a senior Turkish official said the three suicide bombers who carried it out were from Russia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and police raided neighborhoods for suspects linked to the Islamic State group.

Turkish authorities have said all information suggested the Tuesday night attack on Ataturk Airport, one of the world's busiest, was the work of IS, which boasted this week of having cells in Turkey, among other countries.

The police raided 16 locations in three neighborhoods on both the Asian and European sides of Istanbul, rounding up 13 people suspected of having links to the Islamic State group.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility by the militant group, which has used Turkey as a crossing point to establish itself in neighboring Syria and Iraq. IS has repeatedly threatened Turkey in its propaganda publications, and the NATO member has blamed IS for several major bombings in the past year in both Ankara and Istanbul.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, appearing at the opening of a suspension bridge in northwestern



Morning News

FRIDAY JULY 1, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, a t-storm; humid. High 91, low 73.

DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Roche to close at end of 2019

Buyer still sought for pharmaceutical manufacturer

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Roche Carolina Inc. plans to close its Florence plant by the end of 2019, but production will continue as usual until then, a company official said Thursday.

Last fall, company officials announced a restructuring as the Switzerland-based concern sought a buyer for the 300,000-square-foot Florence facility, which then employed 270 people.

On Thursday, Pete Mazzaroni, the company's head of communications, said employees were updated in May that neither a buyer nor a contract manufacturing organization had been found.

"We were not able to do that," he said.

He also said employees were told in May that a plant closure or a "ramp-down" is scheduled by the end of 2019, or a year later than the company had previously estimated.

The workforce now totals about 220, he said, after a "reduction and restructuring" that occurred after

See **ROCHE**, Page 3A

Leatherman presents donation to shelter

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Senator Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. presented a \$25,000 check Thursday morning on behalf of the State of South Carolina to the Courtney McGinnis Graham Community Shelter.

The presentation was made at a press conference Thursday morning at the shelter, which is scheduled to open in the fall.

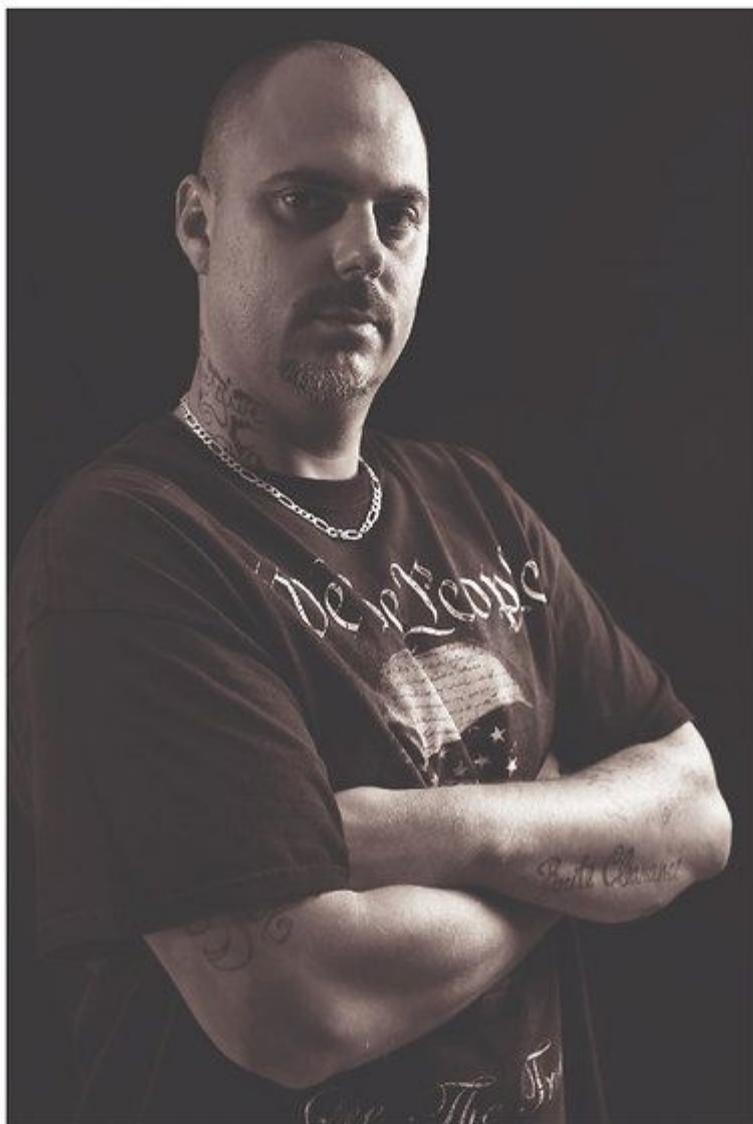
The emergency shelter will be operated by the House of Hope of the Pee Dee and provide short-term stays for men, wom-

THE INVISIBLE WAR

A series on veterans fighting PTSD

Shawn Laurie

Afghanistan, 2006-07, 2010-11



Spc. Shawn Laurie of Florence served in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

MEGAN MCKAY/MORNING NEWS

"I've been down that road plenty of times; I've wanted to take my life numerous times, probably if I could count, 20 times. I could honestly probably tell you if it wasn't for my kids, I know I would've already committed suicide. What happens is, I think, if I kill myself, the pain's going away for me, but I'm just moving the pain onto somebody else. Then my wife and children would have to deal with their father (gone), and would ultimately say I was selfish for doing that to them. If it wasn't for my kids — that's my backbone right there; that's what keeps me going every day."



Spc. Shawn Laurie was deployed to Afghanistan 2006-2007 and in 2010-2011.

Elmcroft senior prom brings happy memories



BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — With the theme of "A Night in Paris," Elmcroft hosted a Thursday night prom as residents of the memory care community enjoyed music, dancing, refreshments and family visits.

"I think it's really nice," said

Elmcroft's activity director.

"There's nothing wrong with dressing up and being pretty," she said, "and the music brings back happy memories."

Several hospice companies donated clothing and food to help make the night happen, she said, such as Agape, Homestead Hospice, PruittHealth Hospice and Regency Hospice.

"The residents are enjoying

LOCAL

How one woman learned to answer the call of her creative side 3A



SPORTS

Chanticleers crow: Coastal Carolina wins College World Series 1B



FRIDAY JULY 1 2016

75¢

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON

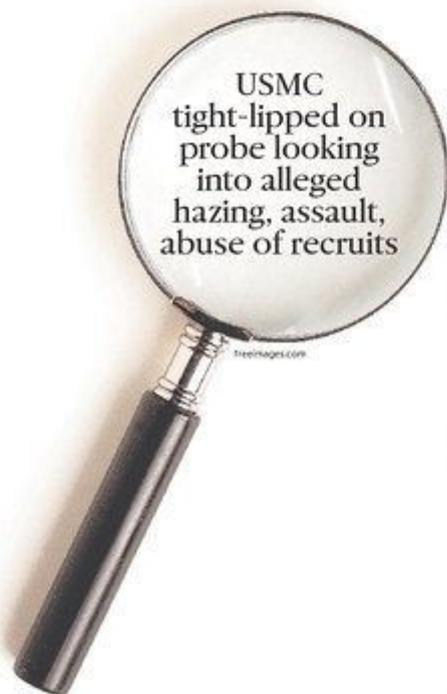


Chance of storms
87°/77° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

PARRIS ISLAND

DRILL INSTRUCTORS UNDER INVESTIGATION

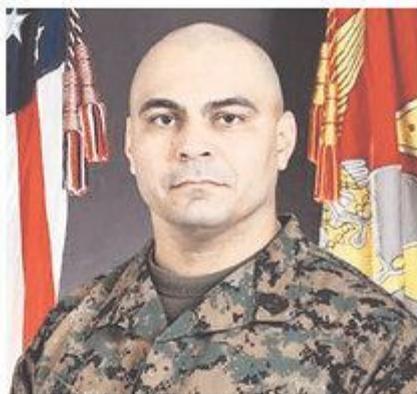


USMC
tight-lipped on
probe looking
into alleged
hazing, assault,
abuse of recruits



Col. Paul D. Cucinotta

U.S. Marine Corps



Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Deabreu

U.S. Marine Corps

Approximately 15 USMC drill instructors and 'affiliated leadership' being investigated for alleged recruit hazing, assault

Probe is related to investigations that resulted in dismissals of Col. Paul D. Cucinotta, Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Deabreu

Marine Corps says drill instructor was 'improperly placed in charge of recruits while he was subject to ongoing investigation'

BY WADE LIVINGSTON
wlivingston@islandpacket.com

Approximately 15 drill instructors and "affiliated leadership" at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island are under investigation for allegedly hazing, assaulting and physically abusing recruits.

Those investigations follow the March 18 death of recruit Raheel Siddiqui and are related to the recent dismissal of two of

the depot's top recruit commanders.

The probe of the drill instructors dates back to November, according to a Marine Corps news release. But some of the allegations, which include "hazing, physical abuse, assault and failure of supervision," according to the release, stem from "the death investigation" of Siddiqui, who suffered a fatal 40-foot fall at the depot.

"During the course of the Recruit Siddiqui death investiga-

tion," the Corps news release said, "facts revealed a drill instructor was improperly placed in charge of recruits while he was subject to an ongoing investigation. Existing orders, policies and procedures to prevent improper assignments were not followed," it said.

"Interim corrective actions have already been taken. All Marines under investigation are currently assigned to duties that do not involve direct access to recruits," it said.

When asked what "interim corrective actions" had been taken and what "direct access to recruits" means, Corps spokesperson Capt. Joshua Pena replied in an email, "The release provides the information available at this time."

When asked to provide specific examples of hazing, physical abuse, assault and failure of supervision that are under investigation, Pena replied, "The

SEE INVESTIGATION, 7A



LOCAL

PEPPER HALL STILL IN LIMBO

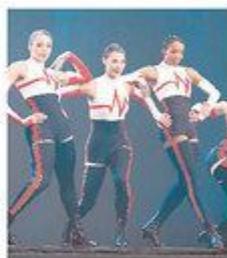
Talks on the Pepper Hall property — and what the owner can do with it — break down, leaving the dispute unresolved. 3A



BUSINESS

BEER MAKER'S PLAN BREWING

A Vermont-native who's a longtime visitor to Hilton Head Island wants to open a brewery on New Orleans Road. 7B



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

ROCKETTES TAKE FLIGHT

A Canadian-based light-

There's plenty to do
this holiday weekend

News
2A

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 98, NO. 181

 indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

No charges in inmate death probe

About 45 minutes passed
before deputies called
EMS, reports say

By **DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ**
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

It took about 45 minutes for Greenwood County Detention Center officers to seek medical attention for Demetric Cowan after he was seen crawl-

ing in his holding cell and acting strangely.

Documents released this week include two incident reports that detail the final moments on March 13 before Cowan died while in custody. While Cowan told jail personnel he was "high"

and the reporting officers noted he was acting strangely, paramedics weren't called for him until about 20 minutes after he started having what appeared to be convulsions as he laid on the floor of his cell.

According to Sheriff Tony

Davis, no detention center officers were terminated, put on leave or resigned, and the S.C. Attorney General's Office has chosen not to file charges in connection with the incident.

See **CHARGES**, page 4A

GRADING CHILDHOOD SUCCESS



Students stand in line early for breakfast at Merrywood Elementary School during summer school.

AREL GILREATH/INDEX-JOURNAL

Greenwood County ranked 26th in state data for child well-being, success in KIDS COUNT

By **KATIE PEARSON**
and **ARIEL GILREATH**
kpearson@indexjournal.com
agilreath@indexjournal.com

A report on children's success and well-being ranks Greenwood County 26th in South Carolina of the 46 counties, while South Carolina is ranked near the bottom of the overall list at 41st in the United States.

The KIDS COUNT report is an initiative of the Anne E. Casey Foundation that gathers data in each state for 16 variables — from the number of children living in households below the poverty line to eighth-graders testing below the state standards in math.

All of the data is through 2013, which is the latest year data was available according to Bett Williams, chief communications officer for the Children's Trust of South Carolina.

"You don't always have immediate data — there's a lag time," Williams said.

Each of the 16 variables are a part of one of four categories used to determine a child's chances of success — economic well-being, education, health and family and community.

Of South Carolina's 46 counties, Greenwood ranked 17th in economic well-being, 20th in education, 31st in health and 35th in family and community.

Of the 16 variables, there were only

five areas that Greenwood had improved in, while the other statistics worsened.

Economic well-being

According to KIDS COUNT, 34.7 percent of children ages 0 to 17 in Greenwood lived in households with incomes below the poverty line. The average in South Carolina was 27.3 percent.

The data showed there were 23.7 percent of household owners who spent

Lakelands counties rankings of the 46 South Carolina counties:

- Greenwood: 26
- Abbeville: 17
- Laurens: 30
- McCormick: 33
- Saluda: 15

See **KIDS COUNT**, page 4A

the Sumter ITEM

SCIENCE
NASA's Juno craft
nears Jupiter for
mapping, photos **A6**

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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Judge considers nuclear fuel dispute

State suing federal government about plutonium project

BY MEG KINNARD
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — It's now up to a federal judge to decide if South Carolina's lawsuit against the federal government about an unfinished plutonium

processing project should be dismissed, or if the state's pursuit of millions of dollars in fees should move forward.

During a hearing in federal court in Columbia, attorney Randy Lowell said that the law is clear that the government owes South Carolina millions of dollars in fees and also must remove plutonium from the state because the processing plant wasn't operational on time.

"All of this is a problem of their own creation," Lowell, representing the

state, said during a 90-minute hearing.

South Carolina in February sued the U.S. Department of Energy about the mixed-oxide fuel project at the Savannah River Site, a sprawling former nuclear weapons plant along the South Carolina-Georgia border. The multi-billion-dollar project was intended to help the United States fulfill an agreement with Russia to dispose of at least 34 metric tons apiece of weapons-grade plutonium, an amount that's enough for about 17,000 nuclear warheads.

The plant is years behind schedule and billions over budget. Because the facility wasn't operational by a Jan. 1, 2016, deadline, the federal government was supposed to remove 1 metric ton of plutonium from South Carolina or pay fines of \$1 million a day — up to \$100 million yearly — until either the facility meets production goals or the plutonium is taken elsewhere for storage or disposal.

Lowell argued that the government

SEE DISPUTE, PAGE A5

Project to relocate Hamptons begins

Restaurant moving to old Burns Hardware building on Main Street

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@theitem.com

The project to relocate Hamptons restaurant to Main Street kicked off on Wednesday with the demolition of the facade at the old Burns Hardware Store at 35 N. Main St.

The project involves demolishing the facade of that building; demolishing the building at 4 E. Hampton Ave.; moving Hamptons to 33 N. Main St., the former location of Angel's Mexican Restaurant; and creating an outdoor venue in the space between Jin Jin Chinese Restaurant and Sumter Opera House.

Danielle Thompson, co-owner of Hamptons, said the move will ensure that Hamptons remains a downtown destination.

Being closer to Sumter Opera House and the upcoming Hyatt hotel will provide a larger customer base as well as add to the other downtown renovations, she said.

The building at 35 N. Main St. used to be Burns Hard-



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

The front wall of the old Burns Hardware Store building crumbles inward as preparation for Hamptons' relocation gets underway. The demolition blocked off Main Street for a few hours Wednesday afternoon. The original sign was planned to be part of the new building, but it could not be saved. The location has been vacant since a fire destroyed what was then the Main Street Bistro in the 1990s.

ware, one of the oldest businesses on Main Street, constructed circa 1890. 4 E. Hampton Ave. was construct-

ed circa 1913 and originally housed a wagon repair shop. Thompson said she wanted to save as much of the

buildings as possible, but the structures are not in good shape.

Her plan to incorporate a

portion of the original building at 35 N. Main St. into the

SEE MOVE, PAGE A5

COL. WILLIAM E. REYNOLDS SR. • 1917 - 2016

Decorated WWII veteran remembered for smiling personality

U.S. Army retired Col. William Evans Reynolds Sr., 98, who landed on the beaches of Normandy several days after D-Day and supported the efforts in the Battle of the Bulge in World War II, died on Tuesday at his

"He was a tremendous role model who was always smiling and upbeat," Reynolds Jr. said.

Kenneth R. Young Jr., his longtime friend and attorney, described

Carl Andrews, an Amedisys Home Health and Hospice Care nurse who assisted Reynolds for the last few years, described him as a people person, who left a positive mark on anyone he met.

He then enlisted in the Army and served as a second lieutenant in Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

He was sent to the European theater in 1944.

The 841st was dubbed the "Lucky

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