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To:
Date: 6/28/2016 8:33:44 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, June 28, 2016

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The Post and Courier

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Tuesday, June 28, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

S.C. advocates praise gun decision

Supreme Court upholds ban for abusers in a win for those fighting domestic violence

BY GAVIN JACKSON
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COLUMBIA — South Carolina criminal domestic violence reformers claimed victory Monday when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a federal

law that bars abusers from owning guns.

"It's important every time a high court affirms our understanding that firearms and domestic violence are a lethal combination," Sara Barber, executive director of the S.C. Coal-

Inside

Abortion ruling may not open door for new Texas clinics. **Page A6**

tion Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, said of the ruling. "If there is a firearm present, it is five times more likely a woman will be killed." Barber's comments came after the

Palmetto Politics
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Supreme Court upheld the broad reach of a federal law that bars people with misdemeanor domestic violence convictions from owning guns. The case involved two Maine men who

said their guilty pleas for hitting their partners should not disqualify them from gun ownership.

The justices, however, rejected arguments that the law covers only intentional or knowing acts of abuse and not those committed recklessly — where a person is aware of the risk that an act will cause injury, but not certain it will.

Please see **GUNS**, Page A6

'So happy to be part of the American people'

Fifty-three from around globe become U.S. citizens in local ceremony



New United States citizens say the Pledge of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony at Middleton Place on Monday morning. Fifty-three people took the oath of allegiance during the event.

BY ALISON GRAHAM
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Faith Hines raised her right hand and placed it over her heart. "I pledge allegiance ... to the flag ... of the United States of America."

She stood on the lawn of Middleton Place in a white dress and heels. A necklace with black, red and green beads — the colors of the Kenyan flag — hung around her neck.

pc Multimedia
To see more photos and a video, go to postandcourier.com/multimedia

"And to the Republic for which it stands..." She felt a stirring inside her as she spoke the words.

To Hines, the pledge is a powerful declara-

tion of loyalty to her new country — one that is experiencing tumultuous times in politics, economics and social issues from coast to coast.

"One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." An officer from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services stood at the front podium and called each name.

Please see **CITIZENS**, Page A5

Sanford: Panama 'big deal' for S.C.

Attends celebration of canal expansion

BY EMMA DUMAIN
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WASHINGTON — On Sunday, U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford was one of 14 members of Congress to witness — in person — the long anticipated expansion of the Panama Canal.

The South Carolina Republican, who celebrated alongside 70 heads of state, told *The Post and Courier* the culmination of the seven-year, \$5 billion project will have a very big impact back home.

"Here we are, very many miles away, and they keep bringing up Charleston," Sanford said of the briefings the congressional delegation received in Panama on Sunday morning.

"I think it was illuminating on what a big deal this is, the way it changes, frankly, the viability and service area of the Port of Charleston," said Sanford, who lives in Mount Pleasant.



Sanford

Please see **SANFORD**, Page A5

Wave walls may spell trouble for sea turtles

Wild Dunes devices spark complaint

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

ISLE OF PALMS — Threatened sea turtles have run into the wall, scrambled to find their way around it or turned and gone back to sea.

That's the nub of a complaint to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by two environmental groups concerning experimental "wave dissipation devices" installed in front of Wild Dunes properties to stave off severe erosion that is threatening condos and houses.

The device consists of vertically set pipes and connecting strip panels that leave openings. The idea is to break up the storm waves that cause the worst beach erosion but allow water and fine sand to pass back and forth between the pipes, simulating the flow on an unobstructed beach. It does not prevent erosion, but keeps it in check.

Please see **WALL**, Page A4

Another gator goes for a dip in ocean

Reptile captured on Sullivan's likely swept along by tide

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

SULLIVAN ISLAND — Look what the tide pushed out — a 5-foot-long alligator, there in the early morning surf along the beach at the light-

house. The swimmer who reported it had to be startled. "I was 'nipped' by the gator when it hooked and pulled to shore three hours later, he didn't have much left to be startled about. That area of the beach was closed to swimming during the capture, and no one was ever in danger, said Andy Benke, Sulli-



A photo captured by an onlooker shows an alligator after it was pulled from the surf at Sullivan's Island on Monday.

van's Island town administrator. He monitored the capture, though the reptile came in with little or no fight.

Please see **GATOR**, Page A5

Inside



BUSINESS
Lewis Barbecue opens Tuesday in Charleston. **B1**

LOCAL
20 years ago, The Citadel voted to admit women. **A3**

STATE
Voters heading back to polls to settle state, local runoffs. **A4**



Chance of storms, High 91, Low 75. Complete 5-day forecast. **B8**

Bridge... **B9** Coastword 86, 68 Obituaries... **B4**
Business... **D1** Editorials... **A8** Sports... **C1**
Classifieds... **C7** Local... **A2** Sudoku... **B7**
Comics... **B4, 9** Movies... **B7** Television... **B6**

Charleston Deals Today

James Island Connector Run
Discounted race registration! Pay \$20. See **A2**



COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Former Gamecocks
QB Connor Mitch
 finds new school, 3B



COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Steve Spurrier
 plans to meet with
 the SEC Network, 1B

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 YESTERDAY: 31-54 1.0-7.7 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
 FORECAST, 8C

The State

Private firms might build, operate city parking garages



This garage, between the USC campus and the Vista, is among those that can become overwhelmed during large events.

Mayor Steve Benjamin exploring public/private construction, operation of future, current garages

Companies interested in proposal to be asked to submit their plans by August

Many questions remain unanswered, Columbia's chief financial officer says

BY CLIF LEBLANC
 clblanc@thestate.com

Columbia officials are exploring a new way to pay for more downtown parking garages that would include a major role for private garage companies and would use new construction on

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: See Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin discuss a new plan for financing city parking garages.

existing garages as a way to help finance them.

Sometime this summer, Mayor Steve Benjamin and City Hall staff will lay out the plan in

detail after asking companies that have experience in public/private garages to submit their proposals, he said.

"We need thousands of spaces now," Benjamin said, referring to two garages the city is contracted to build in the Bull Street neighborhood as well as the need for another garage in the Vista area. "But will we need them in 10 years, 20 years?"

So rather than city government taking all the risk, officials are studying the best way to plan for parking needs and how to pay for them and manage them.

A revitalization of downtown

SEE GARAGES, 7A

SHOP AROUND

NEW EATERY FOR LEXINGTON

Clean Eatz will offer meals for those with gluten-free, vegetarian or other health-conscious dietary needs. 6B



SOUTH CAROLINA

SC'S SPEED TRAP?

Lawsuit against Turbeville gains momentum as more drivers complain. 3A

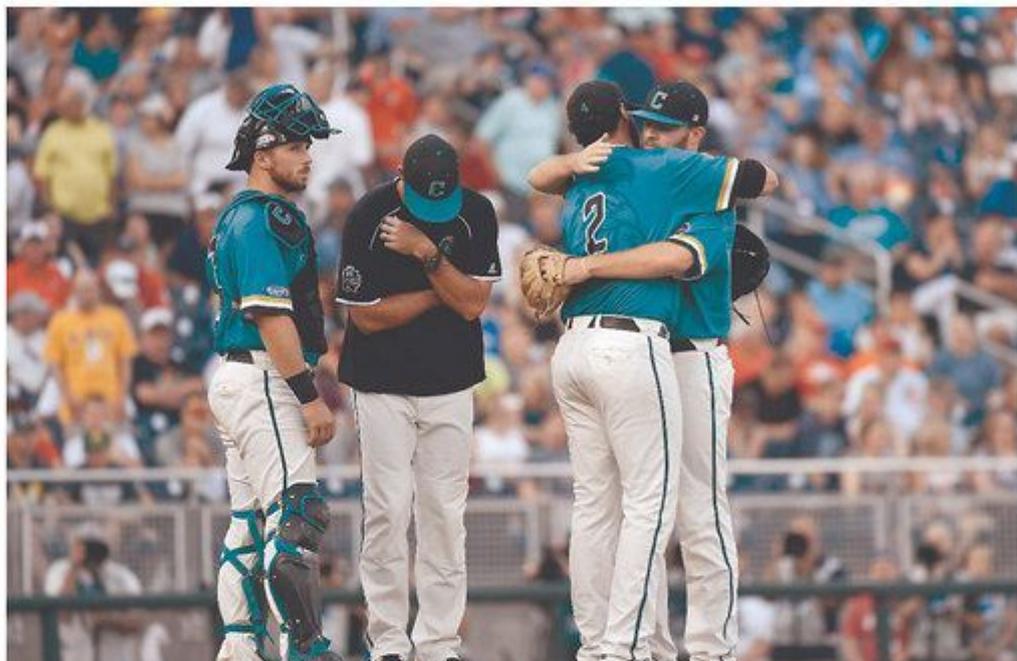


NATION

ABORTION LAW

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES FINALS

COASTAL CAROLINA DROPS CHAMPIONSHIP OPENER





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USA TODAY OFFICIALS WARN THAT U.S. TRAVELERS TO RIO OLYMPICS FACE HACK RISK **PAGE 1B**



BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF
The sale of the historic Beattie House, in negotiations for more than a year, is off.

Beattie House sale is off

Gary Player group plans to move headquarters to London instead

ERIC CONNOR
ECONNOR@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

The international development group founded by professional golfer Gary Player has spent more than a year negotiating to buy Greenville's historic Beattie House and turn it into the company's corporate headquarters.

The deal is now off. "We are disappointed not to continue with this project, but business conditions have changed significantly over the last few years and our headquarters will be moving from Greenville to London," Marc Player, CEO of Black Knight International and son of Gary Player, said in a statement on Monday.

The company had planned to restore the former home of the Greenville Woman's Club, but Player said "the need for this type of facility, unfortunately, no longer exists."

The company's golf course design business, Gary Player Design, will remain in Greenville at its downtown location.

The move leaves the city again looking for a buyer.

The city's stated purpose has been to sell the house and the scenic 2.3 acres it sits on — between Church Street, East Park Avenue and Bennett Street — with an eye toward preservation, compatibility with the surrounding East Park Historic District and some availability to the public.

That intention remains, City Councilwoman Amy Ryberg Doyle said.

"Our goal remains the same: We want the house and garden restored and preserved," Doyle said.

The city had come to terms with the Player group to sell the property for \$275,000 in April 2015, but the closing was repeatedly extended.

The deal with the Player group coalesced after the city issued a request for proposals. The city could do the same this time around but might pur-

See **BEATTIE, Page 5A**

Ruling leaves SC pro-lifers uneasy



TIM SMITH / STAFF

Abortion ruling supporters held a small rally Monday afternoon in front of the South Carolina Supreme Court in Columbia.

Supreme Court strikes down abortion limits

TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA — A United State Supreme Court ruling Monday striking down some Texas abortion clinic regulations may not have any impact on South Carolina law but it is causing pro-life supporters to feel uneasy.

In a 5-3 ruling, the justices found that Texas regulations that require, in part, doctors performing abortions to hold admitting privileges to a local hospital are an "undue burden" to women's access to an abortion and provide "a substantial obstacle in the path of women seeking a previability abortion."

"We conclude that neither of these provisions offers medical benefits sufficient to justify the burdens upon access that each imposes," Justice Stephen Breyer wrote for the majority.

The Texas regulations, which also required abortion providers to meet the standards for ambulatory surgical centers, had been copied in some other states but not in South Carolina, though some S.C. lawmakers had proposed similar measures.

South Carolina pro-life supporters said they were disappointed in the ruling and felt uneasy about the future of abortion legislation and regulations as a result.

"I guess my concern going forward is the meaning of this," Oran Smith, president of the Palmetto Family Council, told *The Greenville News*. "It doesn't really provide a template for where we can go. We're not afraid of a constitutional challenge but we would at least like to know where the minefields are. This case really leaves us in doubt of what the geography of the fight really is."

Supporters of the ruling, meanwhile, celebrated. "It's been a great day for women," said Vicki Ringer, a spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, which organized a small rally Monday afternoon in front of the South Carolina Supreme Court. "For the first time in over two decades there has been a ruling that says the constitutional right to safe and legal abortions is still intact. And states can't pass these regulations that have no medical necessity."

South Carolina does have regulations for abortion clinics that have survived a

"For the first time in over two decades there has been a ruling that says the constitutional right to safe and legal abortions is still intact. And states can't pass these regulations that have no medical necessity."

VICKI RINGER
PLANNED PARENTHOOD SOUTH ATLANTIC

See **ABORTION, Page 5A**

INSIDE

A divided Supreme Court rules that a Texas law imposes an undue burden on women, **Page 1B**

Suspect had 2 guns in officer involved shooting



Morning News

TUESDAY JUNE 28, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Showers and a heavier thunderstorm. High 88, low 69. DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

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Coastal Carolina's Michael Paez looks skyward after popping out to Arizona right fielder Zach Gibbons (23) in the eighth inning of Game 1 of the College World Series championship series Monday in Omaha, Neb.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona 3, Coastal Carolina 0

Chanticleers falter

OMAHA, Neb. — Surprising Coastal Carolina was a big hit during the first week of the College World Series, but it was unable to collect big hits Monday night. The Chanticleers were held to four hits and fell 3-0 to Arizona in the first game of a best-of-three College World Series championship series. See Sports, Page B1.

CWS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

» **GAME 1:** Arizona 3, Coastal Carolina 0, Arizona leads best-of-3 series 1-0
» **GAME 2:** 8 p.m. EDT today
» **GAME 3 (if necessary):** 8 p.m. Wednesday
» **TV:** ESPN

Alexander on the DNC Platform Committee

Representative will advocate for Bernie Sanders

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — All signs are pointing to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton becoming the Democratic Party's presidential



Alexander

nominee, but Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders still has a voice in the party. S.C. Rep. Terry Alexander of Florence is a part of the DNC's Platform Committee that will try and help push some of the ideas Sanders advocates and make sure the Democratic Party includes the voice of the millions of people who voted for Sanders.

"It's about posturing and making sure some of his platform points are discussed in depth," Alexander said. "I'll be right there to help reshape and revise the Democratic Party as much as I can, and I'm hoping that as we go along, more people will start to realize that's not a bad thing."

Some of the issues Alexander hopes become a part of the DNC platform include raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, providing universal health care and reforming a justice system that is tilted against African-Americans and Hispanics.

"These are ideas we think will benefit the entire country by way of the Democratic Party," he said. "These ideas would be beneficial to everyone, both Democrats and Republicans."

Sanders has said he will support Clinton for president, and Alexander said he will follow that lead.

Alexander added, however, that it's in Clinton's best interest to seriously

THE INVISIBLE WAR

A series on veterans fighting PTSD

Gary Miles

Afghanistan, 2007-2008



WGAN/WMORNING NEWS

Spc. Gary Miles of Bishopville served in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.



Spc. Gary Miles was deployed in Afghanistan from 2007 to 2008.

"I think it (PTSD) was really triggered in the event up there losing those five people. That triggered it more than anything. It makes you more alert. You're scared to let people get attached to you, because you may get killed at any time. It just makes you appreciate life a whole lot more and look at life a whole lot differently. Especially in America, how easy we got it over here. That's one thing America takes for granted so badly. They don't realize how lucky we got it over here. In a split second, it could be gone."

Florence Housing Authority

Apartments named for J.O. Smith

The final touches are being made on the



LOCAL

Search for missing Florida man last seen on Hilton Head continues 3A



SPORTS

Beaufort weightlifter CJ Cummings wins Junior Worlds 1B



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND BLUFFTON

Chance of storms 86°/75° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Council approves placing sales tax increase on ballot

Referendum will go before voters in November

BY LUCAS HIGH
lhigh@islandpacket.com

Tax increase expected to raise \$120 million for infrastructure projects over four-year period

County residents already facing higher property taxes in fiscal year 2017

Would you be willing to pay an extra penny for every dollar you spend when you shop at the mall if it meant providing Beaufort County funding for several dozen infrastructure projects?

County residents will have an opportunity to answer that question in the voting booth this November.

The Beaufort County Council voted unanimously Monday night in favor of a ballot referendum that, if supported by voters Nov. 8, would add a penny of sales tax to every dollar spent in the county.

County officials estimate the 1 percent increase to yield \$120 million in revenue over four years to be used for capital improvement projects.

Those projects — determined after months of debate and

scrutiny by the county's Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission — include, countywide roadway improvements, a parking garage in Beaufort, and new Beaufort County Sheriff's Office communications equipment.

The commission broke the projects into four categories: public safety, quality of life, economic development and environmental impact.

Beaufort County Councilman Stu Rodman said Monday that

he recently analyzed the projects "and sorted them by geography and category."

The projects "seemed to be quite balanced," he said. "I think we are good to go."

The County Council quashed a similar capital sales tax referendum proposal in 2014.

Despite the unanimous approval Monday night, the idea of adding an additional tax did not always sit well with members of the council.

Earlier this month, Councilwoman Cynthia Bensch called some of the infrastructure projects "pure pork."

But Councilman Bill McBride

SEE TAX, 8A

MORE INSIDE

Beaufort County OKs a more than \$76 million schools budget. 3A

Have you seen this BBQ pig?

Who stole Flossie the BBQ pig? And a piece of Bluffton history?



Submitted



U.S. SUPREME COURT

Abortion clinics get victory in Texas

Justices vote 5-3 in favor of Texas abortion clinics

Ruling: Regulations are medically unnecessary and unconstitutionally limit a woman's right to an abortion

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON

The Supreme Court struck down Texas' widely replicated regulation of abortion clinics Monday in the court's biggest abortion case in nearly a quarter century.

The justices voted 5-3 in favor of Texas clinics that had argued the regulations were only a veiled attempt to make it harder for women to get abortions in the nation's second-most populous state.

Justice Stephen Breyer's majority opinion for the court held that the regulations are medically unnecessary and unconstitutionally limit a woman's right to an abortion.

Texas had argued that its 2013 law and subsequent regulations were needed to protect women's health. The rules required doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and forced clinics to meet hospital-like standards for outpatient services.

INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 98, NO. 11

indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Runoffs today for sheriff, clerk of court

McCormick County Council and 11th Circuit Solicitor also on ballot

From staff reports

Four seats are on today's ballots in the Lakelands as no candidates in those races received more than half the vote June 14.

In Greenwood County, voters will chose between Sheriff Tony Davis

and retired state trooper Dennis Kelly to see who will represent Republican Party against Democratic candidate Arnie Fisher in the November election.

Also on today's ballot in Greenwood County is clerk of court, where incumbent Angie Woodhurst faces

challenger Chastity Copeland. No Democrat filed for the seat.

In McCormick County, the race for the Democratic nomination for the District 1 County Council seat pits incumbent Henry Banks against challenger Donald Moss. The winner See **RUNOFFS**, page 3A

Voting Information

■ **WHO CAN VOTE:** Anyone who cast a ballot in the June 14 primary must stick with the party they chose in today's runoff. Anyone who did not vote in the primary may choose either party's ballot, though no Democrats went to a runoff in Greenwood

or Saluda County.

■ **WHERE TO VOTE:** Use the precinct listed on your voter registration card. If you have any questions about where to vote, contact your county elections office.

■ **WHEN TO VOTE:** Polls are open today from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

TAKING A STAND



Reagan Barklage of St. Louis, center, and other anti-abortion activists demonstrate Monday in front of the Supreme Court in Washington.

Big ruling for abortion rights in Supreme Court's Texas case

By PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court issued its strongest defense of abortion rights in a quarter-century Monday, striking down Texas' widely replicated rules that sharply reduced abortion clinics in the nation's second-most-populous state.

By a 5-3 vote, the justices rejected the state's arguments that its 2013 law and follow-up regulations were needed to protect women's health. The

rules required doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and forced clinics to meet hospital-like standards for outpatient surgery.

The clinics that challenged the law argued that it was merely a veiled attempt to make it harder for women to get abortions by forcing the closure of more than half the roughly 40 clinics that operated before the law took effect.

Justice Stephen Breyer's majority opinion for the court held that the regulations are medically unne-

cessary and unconstitutionally limit women's right to abortions.

Breyer wrote that "the surgical-center requirement, like the admitting privileges requirement, provides few, if any, health benefits for women, poses a substantial obstacle to women seeking abortions and constitutes an 'undue burden' on their constitutional right to do so."

Thirteen states have similar requirements, enacted as part of a wave of abortion restrictions See **STAND**, page 4A

■ SOLAR POWER

County could boast rare private energy farm

By ADAM BENSON
abenson@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County leaders are set to amend language in its newly adopted solar ordinance that would require approved projects to create a natural buffer with neighboring properties.

On June 21, County Council unanimously approved the change to Ordinance 13-86, setting up a final vote on July 5.

"I totally agree with the council's actions in wanting to look more in-depth at the issue, because in some circumstances, you wouldn't want to drive by a property that's clear cut and just see row after row of this type of use without any shielding," said Phil Lindler, the county's planning director. "It's more tailored to the unique characteristics of the individual site."

For example, solar projects built near subdivisions or in residential zones may have to use a berm or more intensive vegetation than sites that are installed on vacant land in rural areas.

"We're concerned about the buffer for solar farms, especially near residential property," Council Chairman Steve Brown said.

Officials said they wanted to create regulations around the development of solar farms in anticipation of the industry taking hold locally. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association, \$10 was invested on solar installations across the state in 2015 — a 183 percent jump from the previous year.

And during the next five years, South Carolina is expected to install 765 megawatts of solar electric capacity, or 64 times the amount of solar projects that came online over the last five years.

"This is kind of preparing us to make sure these companies and any others have some standards they can follow when they come here," Lindler said.

Trash left at Lake Greenwood sparks outrage on Facebook

By ADAM BENSON
abenson@indexjournal.com

Lake Greenwood users turned to social media this weekend to express outrage after months of trash being

more than 50 comments. Several people said they took pictures of the mess and sent them to the Laurens County Sheriff's Office, since the office has jurisdiction over that part of shoreline.





STATE

Class-action suit focuses on Turbeville fines

A3

Runoff elections will be held today

Voters will choose candidates for Sumter County Council District 1, coroner, state House District 50

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS
adrienne@thesumter.com

Voters can cast their ballots for three runoff elections from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today at their polling places. The races include Democratic

Sumter County coroner candidates incumbent Harvin Bullock and Robbie Baker; Democratic Sumter County Council District 1 candidates Chris Sumpter and Caleb Kershaw Jr.; and Democratic state House District 50 candidates Tom

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

Go online to find where you need to vote.
<http://bit.ly/2822gh6>

Drayton and Will Wheeler. Patricia Jefferson, director of Sumter County Voter Registration and Elections,

said all 58 polling places will be open.

She also urged residents to make sure they bring a photo ID to help the voting process run quickly and smoothly. The runoff elections are being held today because none of the candidates running during the primaries in those three races received enough votes to secure a position for the Nov. 8 general election.

SEE VOTE, PAGE A7

Ham radio operators have annual Field Day

BY JIM HILLEY
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When Hurricane Hugo devastated South Carolina in 1989, emergency personnel turned to ham radio operators to stay in touch with isolated communities and the outside world. It is a partnership that has lasted for decades.

"Part of the reason the federal communications division gives us 'real estate' is because of our ability to provide voluntary services in emergencies," said Sumter Amateur Radio Association Vice President Hap Griffin.

Ham radio, or amateur radio, dates to the beginning of radio, when inventors such as Guglielmo Marconi were first unraveling the mystery of how electromagnetic waves travel through the atmosphere.

"Basically what we are doing is the continuation of what the pioneers started," Griffin said.

Since ham radio operators are transmitting signals that can travel around the planet, operators must be licensed by taking tests that show their proficiency with the equipment, including how to avoid interfering with other electronic signals.

Several members of the local amateur radio club were at the Sumter Enduro Riders Motorcycle Association clubhouse near Wedgefield on Saturday to take part in the



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Dee Stone, right, calls out to amateur radio operators across the United States during Field Day on Saturday at the Sumter Enduro Riders Motorcycle Association clubhouse near Wedgefield. When Stone makes a contact, his reporter Jim Barnard writes down the operator's call sign to score points for the Sumter location. The competition is judged by which club can make the most contacts in 24 hours.

American Radio Relay League's annual Field Day activities.

Each year during the last weekend in June, ham radio operators and amateur radio clubs such as Sumter Amateur Radio Association set up broadcasting stations and attempt to make contact with other ham radio operators across the country and around the globe.

"It's part of our training," Griffin said. "That's the whole idea, to keep skills sharp and make sure we have the necessary equipment."

The field day is a competition, which includes setting up a transmitter at a location which does not normally have one. The competition is judged by which operators and clubs can log the most contacts in a 24-hour period — from 2 p.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Sunday.

Griffin said some clubs get really into setting up in remote locations with tents and electric generators.

"We are a little older, and we try to find a place with air conditioning, electric power



Mike Dunlap, a member of the Sumter Amateur Radio Association, tightens an uncooperative bolt as the club erects a broadcast antenna during the annual Field Day exercise Saturday.

JIM HILLEY / THE SUMTER ITEM

SEE RADIO, PAGE A7

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