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To:  
Date: 8/27/2014 9:48:08 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, August 27, 2014

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**SC Front Pages – Wednesday, August 27, 2014**

**SPORTS:** Red Foxes blank Central in season opener. 5A

# THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27, 2014

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schow.com

## Sonoco to acquire company for \$383M

BY JIM FAILE  
jfaile@hartsvillemessenger.com

Sonoco announced Monday that it will purchase Weidenhammer Packaging Group, Europe's leading provider of composite cans along with composite drums and rigid plastic containers, for \$383 million in cash.

The final consideration is subject to a normal adjustment of net working capital.

Weidenhammer, headquartered in Hockenheim, Germany, has about 1,100 employees and operates 13 production facilities, including five in Germany, along with individual plants in Belgium, France, Greece, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States, Chile and Russia.

In addition to producing composite cans, drums and luxury tubes, Weidenhammer produces unique rigid plastic containers using state-of-the-art thin-walled injection molding technology with modern in-mold labeling. Markets served by the company include processed foods, powdered beverages, tobacco, confectionery, personal care, pet food, pharmaceuticals and home and garden products.

Sonoco said in a news release that the acquisition of family-owned Weidenhammer will make Sonoco a global leader in rigid paper packaging. The acquisition is expected to increase Sonoco's global consumer-related packaging and services business to about \$2.8 billion in annual sales or about 53 percent of the company's combined revenue of about \$5.3 billion, according to Jack Sanders, Sonoco's president and CEO. In addition, the combination is expected to increase Sonoco's net sales in Europe to approximately 21 percent of total sales.

Weidenhammer Packaging's projected 2014 sales are expected to be about \$327 million, with projected EBITDA expected to be approximately \$56 million.

The transaction is expected to have no material impact to Sonoco's 2014 base earnings and should be accretive to Sonoco's 2015 base earnings in the range of 9 cents to 14 cents a share, including estimated adjustment for purchase accounting and first year synergies, the company said. Future accretion is expected through material internalization and other cost synergies.

"Combining Weidenhammer's state-of-the-art production and technological capability places Sonoco in a leading position to provide its global consumer product customers with unparalleled packaging expertise throughout North



Gov. Nikki Haley (left) presents Harris DeLoach the Order of the Palmetto during Friday's dedication of the new Harris E. and Louise H. DeLoach Center at Coker College as Louise DeLoach looks on.

## Coker opens DeLoach Center

### Haley joins hundreds for dedication

BY LOU BEZJAK  
lbezjak@hartsvillemessenger.com

Dan Schmotzer, the long-time Coker Cobras men's basketball coach, has been at the school for many of its big achievements, but he said none compared to Friday's dedication of the 1,908-seat, \$12 million Harris E. and Louise H. DeLoach Center.

"This is Coker College's finest moment ... to be able to build this beautiful facility," Schmotzer said. "It took a lot of people to get it done. But it couldn't happen without the proper leadership of our president Dr. Wyatt, board of trustees and Dr. Lynn Griffin. They weren't going to take no for an answer."

The DeLoach Center replaces the 700-seat Timberlake-Lawton gymnasium, where Schmotzer has won many of his 343 victories in his 26 years at the school.

Schmotzer said the new facility has rejuvenated him and the entire athletic department. He has already seen the benefits when he is talking to prospective recruits and bringing them in for visits. "It is almost like you have a new job. You are thrilled to



ABOVE: Louise H. and Harris E. DeLoach Jr. cut the ribbon during Friday's dedication ceremony. BELOW: The platform party. From left: the Rev. John Foster III, Kendrick Reed, Rep. Jay Lucas, Hailey Yohn, Sen. Gerald Malloy, Dr. Robert Wyatt, Louise DeLoach, Harris E. DeLoach Jr., Gov. Nikki Haley and Cindy Hartley.

friends in the community. "With the recruits we bring in, it is a showcase and it has already made a remarkable difference in the talent we have been able to bring in here."

More than 600 students, faculty and dignitaries attended Friday's ceremony, including South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. Haley surprised Harris DeLoach, presenting him with the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest civilian honor. The award was given in recognition of the business leader's







METRO, 3A  
Man to face  
trial in fatal  
stabbing



Fruit's roots run deep LIFESTYLE

## A FIG'S TALE

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 27, 2014  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY ISRAEL, HAMAS AGREE TO EXTENDED CEASE-FIRE PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

## Para-cyclists get ready to roll

World championships take off in Greenville today

By Lillia Callum-Penso  
Staff Writer  
lpenso@greenvillenews.com

The world is coming to Greenville this weekend for the UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships, which start Thursday.

The international race will bring 300 athletes from across

40 countries to the Upstate for a competition of strength, will and top-notch ability.

Athletes will compete in handcycling relays, time trials and road racing events that run Thursday through Monday.

The event officially kicks off this evening with a Parade of Nations and an opening ceremony at the TD Stage at the Peace

Center at 6 p.m. Other events will be held at the Millennium campus at Interstate 85 and Laurens Road.

"What we're doing here, it's similar to the London Paralympics," said Stan Healy, president of Notus Sports and a senior administrator with Green-

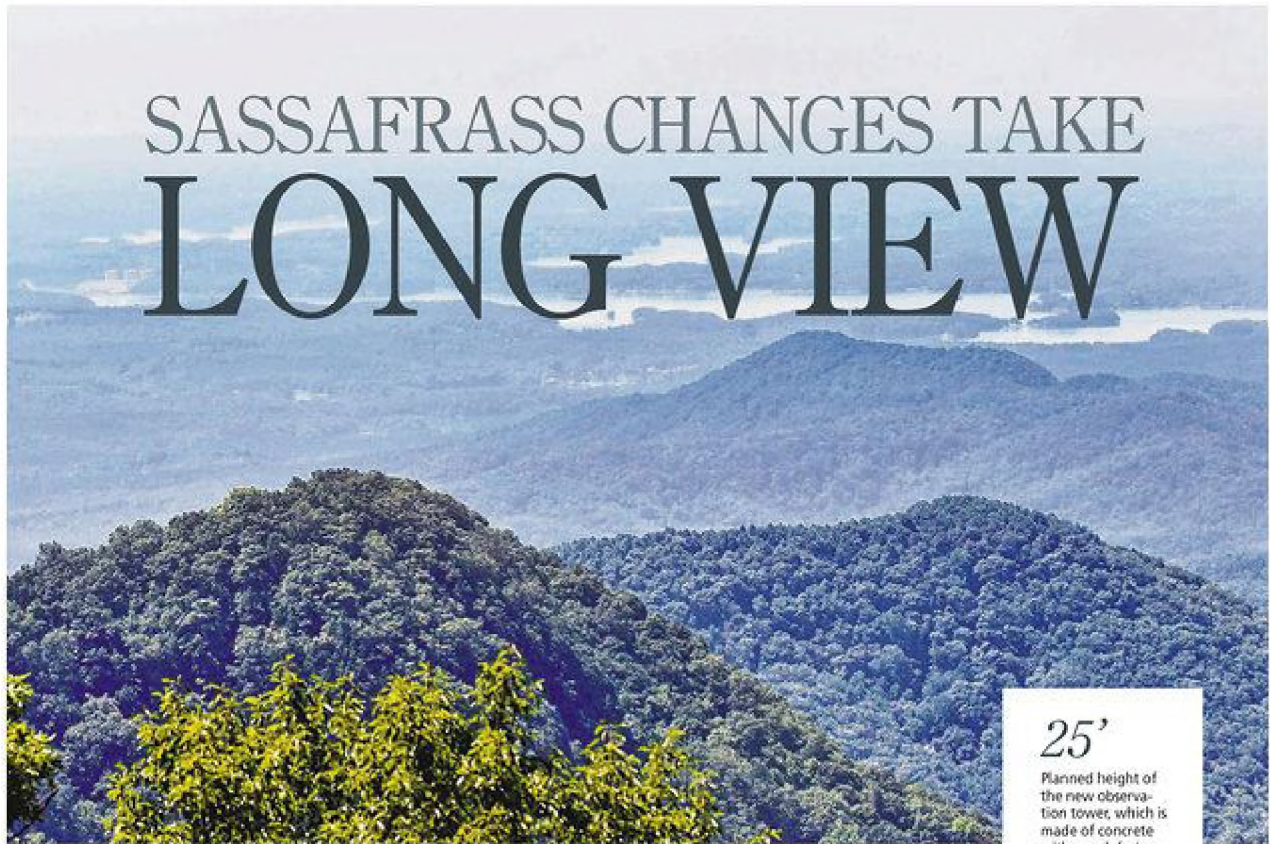
See PARA-CYCLING, Page 4A



Aaron Trent, a Greenville resident and two-time medalist, will be competing in this year's UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships.

MYKAL  
MCELLOWNEY/  
STAFF

## SASSAFRASS CHANGES TAKE LONG VIEW



25'

Planned height of the new observation tower, which is made of concrete with a rock facing.

Mountaintop cleared in plan to transform scenic site

3,553

Feet above sea level at which the peak of Sassafras Mountain towers.



By Eric Connor  
Staff Writer  
econnor@greenvillenews.com

The ancient Appalachian hills, smoothed by time's passage, roll below the pinnacle of Sassafras Mountain like ocean waves across four states, lost in the distance only by the limitations of the human eye.

hemlock trees surrounded nearly every degree of the summit, insulating it from the world and leaving visitors unsure if they had actually made it to the top.

The trees are gone now, the summit laid bare in an effort to transform Sassafras into more than a footnote of trivia in elementary school textbooks.

The stewards of Sassafras Mountain had a choice to make — and they made a bold one that

\$50K

Amount the Department of Natural Resources is short in meeting its funding goal for





Is one-day S.C. House session needed?  
SOUTH, B1

Gamecocks, Tigers relying on replacements this year  
SPORTS, C1

# The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

WEDNESDAY, August 27, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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

## Feds target restaurant wages

Some of Charleston's award-winning restaurateurs are among those who are routinely short-changing the pay of restaurant workers, according to government documents and worker reports. They're part of a celebrated food-and-beverage industry that generates nearly a half-billion dollars in annual revenue and has put Charleston on the culinary map. Now, the U.S. Department of Labor is investigating pervasive practices it says have cost local workers at least \$388,067 in back wages.

READ MORE IN TODAY'S FOOD SECTION

Till death do us part

## Leaders target domestic violence

Series on S.C.'s deadly status spurs lawmakers to action

BY DOUG PARADUE  
and JEREMY BORDEN  
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jborden@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — House Speaker Bobby Harrell has named a special committee to find ways to help reverse the state's status as the most deadly in the nation for women at the hands of men.

"It's time to make the laws better," Harrell said. "South Carolina has made great strides, but this is an issue we have lagged behind on."

Harrell directed the committee to "have a piece of legislation ready and introduced on the first day" of the next session that begins in January.

Democratic Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter of Orangeburg, a committee member, is an advocate for stronger state laws on criminal domestic violence and has complained that efforts to improve the situation repeatedly die in the Legislature because of special interests, such as gun rights advocates.

She said she is very pleased that a five-day series on domestic violence by The Post and Courier that concluded Sunday "lit a fire under people to get something done."

"If we could just get people, particularly judges and law enforcement to view this as the serious crime it is, that would be a big step in the right direction," she said. "I think it's important to use this momentum to get something done... with this horrible crime."

Please see **VIOLENCE**, Page A6

**Online**  
Read The Post and Courier's special investigative report at [postandcourier.com/TillDeath](http://postandcourier.com/TillDeath).

## CofC's doctoral plans advance

General Assembly OK not needed

BY DIANE KNICH  
dknich@postandcourier.com

The College of Charleston's plan to offer doctoral degrees aligned with local business needs took a step forward Tuesday, when it got approval from a key Commission on Higher Education committee.

The full commission likely will take a final vote on the plan Sept. 9, during its retreat at Clemson University, said Julie Carullo, the



McGee

deputy executive director. College leaders and local legislators originally thought the school needed approval from the General Assembly to become a designated research university and offer doctoral degrees. But a move to get that approval during the last legislative session failed. After the combative session, which came to a close in June, college officials learned that the state's Commission on Higher Education had the authority to OK the plan by approving the college's amended mission statement without getting approval from the General Assembly.

State and business leaders have said offering doctoral degrees locally is important because it could attract more companies looking for highly educated and skilled workers to the region.

Brian McGee, the college's interim president, said the commission's Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing approved the college's revised mission statement and will recommend to the full commission that it do the same. The commission must approve

Please see **DOCTORAL**, Page A6

**Poll**  
Should the full state Commission on Higher Education approve the College of Charleston's plan to offer doctoral degrees? Find this story at [postandcourier.com/polls](http://postandcourier.com/polls) to vote.

## Mount Pleasant seeks wise growth

Town wants to appeal to all ages, curb sprawl



Mount Pleasant residents (left to right) Gene Gowe, Mary Thomas, Howard Jaffe and Jane Thompson play cards Tuesday at Mount Pleasant's Stokes-Marshall Senior Center. All of them moved from other areas. "We didn't have any family here," said Mary Thomas, who came from Ohio. "We just up and moved."

BY JENNIFER BERRY HAWES  
jbhawes@postandcourier.com

MOUNT PLEASANT — Refer to this booming community and most folks think of upscale neighborhoods chock full of families living in pricey single-family houses.

But that isn't entirely what the town is — or at least what elected leaders want for its long-term future, according to a comprehensive plan update that Town Council

unanimously approved Tuesday.

"We want to make this a place where people of all ages want to live and have opportunities to do so," Senior Planner Kelly Coutino said.

The comprehensive plan is a state-required document that provides a big-picture view for future zoning and planning decisions. The current plan was created in 2008. This required five-year update likely will go to Council for a final vote in October.

In a town facing tremendous growth-related pressures, officials repeatedly have said they are trying to manage the development boom rather than be controlled by it. But just how to do so remains hotly debated, especially in a desirable community confined by water, marsh and a national forest on all sides. "We're pretty much an island," Councilman Paul Gawrych said.

Please see **GROWTH**, Page A8

## Ethics charges against Wilson, Pennington tossed out

Chief prosecutor in 9th Circuit says complaints 'political smear'

BY GLENN SMITH  
gsmith@postandcourier.com

State judicial officials have tossed out ethics complaints against 9th Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson and Public Defender Ashley Pennington after finding

no evidence to support allegations that their conduct undermined the pursuit of justice.

Wilson, chief prosecutor for Charleston and Berkeley counties, said she was not surprised by the decision because the complaints were baseless.

"I am grateful for the outpouring of support from friends, colleagues and constituents who saw this attack for what it was: a political smear," she said.

Pennington could not be reached for comment after the findings were made public late Tuesday.

Columbia lawyer Desha Ballard and attorney Bobby Frederick of Myrtle Beach filed complaints against Wilson with the state Supreme Court's Office of Disciplinary Counsel earlier this

Please see **WILSON**, Page A6



Wilson



Clear.  
High 89. Low 67.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast, B12

Bridge ..... B11 Crosswords ..... B10-15  
Business ..... B2 Editorials ..... A14  
Classifieds ..... A1 Food ..... B1  
Comics ..... B10-11 Movies ..... B9 The South ..... B1

Obituaries ..... B4  
Sports ..... C1  
Interview ..... B8  
The South ..... B1

**Charleston Deals today**  
Ocean Sailing Academy  
\$45 for Intro to Sail class at Ocean Sailing Academy (valued at \$95).  
See A2





**DABO AND THE DAWGS:** How about a Clemson-Georgia game every year? **C1**

# The State

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2014 | THESTATE.COM



## HOW TO WATCH

**What:** "The Believer," a documentary about Steve Spurrier

**When:** 8 p.m. Wednesday

**Where:** SEC Network (Channel 384 on Time Warner Cable)

Steve Spurrier when he was hired by USC in 2004, in a scene from "The Believer"

## SPURRIER A BELIEVER

Documentary shows how USC coach's confidence has translated into success

By DAVID CLONINGER  
dcloninger@thestate.com

The SEC Network will premiere a documentary about Steve Spurrier, titled "The Believer," at 8 p.m. Wednesday, just the segue Gamecocks fans need before Thursday's season-opening game between No. 9 South Car-

olina and No. 21 Texas A&M.

The 90-minute film, the brainchild of longtime Spurrier friend and country music star Kenny Chesney, was filmed over the summer and takes a look at Spurrier's career, and the man behind the visor.

SEE SPURRIER PAGE A7

## INSIDE

SEC Network star Tim Tebow returning to Columbia. **C1**

High expectations for USC's Pharoah Cooper. **C1**

USC, Clemson and the new playoff system. **C1**

## GAMEDAY WEEK

## Big game means big bucks for city retailers

USC, A&M fans expected to open wallets wide

By RODDIE BURRIS  
rburris@thestate.com

Few words sound sweeter to a Columbia hotel manager on a USC game day than, "They travel well," and that's the word on the 21st-ranked Texas A&M Aggies, who will be in town Thursday to open the college football season against South Carolina.

"We're expecting a big couple of days for sure," said Brad Marsico, sales and marketing senior vice president of SREE Hotels, which operates the newly-renovated, 189-room Courtyard by Marriott at Blossom and Assembly streets, and the 132-room SpringHill Suites by Marriott on La-



Courtyard bartender Raymond Craft hopes to be serving a lot of drinks to thirsty fans.

dy Street downtown in the Vista.

A buzz is building in the city — it happens this time every year in Columbia — and city hotels

and restaurants say they have made ready for an influx of out-of-towners — Gamecocks and Aggies fans alike — who will make their way into the

Capital City beginning Wednesday to prepare for the 6 p.m. Thursday kickoff at Williams-Brice

SEE GAME PAGE A6

## Baby sleep deaths targeted

Richland coroner raises awareness of unsafe conditions

By JOHNN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

Some Midlands parents and caregivers are unintentionally causing the deaths of infants during sleep, Richland County Coroner Gary Watts said Tuesday.

"This is a situation that touches everybody," said Watts, who held a news conference to announce "Sleep Right Through the Night," aimed at educating people about the dangers of unsafe sleeping conditions and to promote what he called "safe sleep environments."

Statewide, some 435 infants have died since 2012 in circumstances linked to unsafe sleeping conditions, according to the State Law Enforce-

SEE INFANT PAGE A6

Public safety net in nightlife areas to be tested



# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, August 27, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 239 Aiken, S.C. ★ 75¢

## Girl hit by golf cart dies

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

A 5-year-old girl died early on Tuesday after being struck by a golf cart in the parking lot of Aiken Regional Medical Centers on Monday, according to the Aiken County Coroner's Office.

The child, who was from Granite-

ville and has not been identified, was pronounced dead at Georgia Regents Medical Center's Pediatric Unit at 6:52 a.m. Tuesday, according to Aiken County Coroner Tim Carlson. An autopsy was scheduled for Wednesday morning in Newberry.

Police responded to a golf cart versus pedestrian collision that happened in the parking lot in front of

Aiken Regional at about 1:30 p.m. Monday. Carlson said the girl and her family were exiting the hospital toward the parking lot when the collision occurred.

The girl was taken to the emergency department in Aiken Regional and then airlifted to Georgia Regents Medical Center, Carlson said. Officials have said the driver is a security

officer at Aiken Regional.

Aiken Public Safety's collision reconstruction team is conducting an investigation, which could include speed determination, scale diagrams or collection of data for reconstruction.

The hospital released the following statement on Tuesday: "All of us at Aiken Regional are deeply saddened

by the death of Kirsten. Our condolences go out to the family during this incredible time of sorrow. We will continue to keep the family in our prayers."

Teddy Kulmala covers the crime and courts beat for the Aiken Standard and has been with the newspaper since August 2012.

## Aiken's Makin' brings new vendors, cuisines



AIKEN STANDARD FILE PHOTO

Brooke Wildender, who attends Aiken's Makin' each year with her mom and little brother, pets a wrought iron pinto horse for sale at a previous event.

BY DERREK ASBERRY  
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Christmas often comes early when thousands flock to downtown Aiken to shop for creative crafts and eat flavorful foods at Aiken's Makin'. Local officials believe this year's 38th annual event will be no different.

Aiken's Makin' will be held Sept. 5 through Sept. 6 on Park Avenue in downtown. On Sept. 5, the event will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; on Sept. 6, it will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Co-chair John McMichael met with nearly 60 other volunteers Tuesday at First Baptist Church to lay out a plan to make this year's event a success.

McMichael said the board in charge of Aiken's Makin' tries to make the event a little different each year. This year, the biggest change will be the addition of 42



AIKEN STANDARD FILE PHOTO

Sarah B. Hott, of Salley, wove a sweetgrass basket at her booth at a previous Aiken's Makin'.



SUBMITTED PHOTO BY BILL TAYLOR

A mobile home off the Columbia Highway on U.S. 1 was destroyed by a fire on Thursday night.

## Faith in humanity restored for house fire victims

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

A fire may have destroyed Jim Jarvis' home and livelihood, but the carpenter said it's his faith in humanity that rose from the ashes.

Jarvis and his live-in girlfriend, Cheryl Johns, were swimming in a pond behind their home on Summer Lakes Drive on Thursday afternoon when he heard a "peculiar" sound. As he walked up the hill to the home, a window busted and smoke billowed from the opening, while flames shot through one end of the roof.

John ran to the nearest neighbor, whose home was located across the pond. "All our phones were inside. We couldn't get to them," Jarvis said. "I attempted to enter the house and retrieve the two cats and maybe a valuable or two."

When I opened the door, it was completely full of black smoke.

The home was nearly gone by the time fire crews responded, Jarvis said. But along with the first responders came American Red Cross volunteers and neighbors, some of whom, literally, gave Jarvis and Johns the clothes off their backs. "I had nothing but a pair of shorts. My girlfriend had nothing but her bathing suit on," he said.

Some people gave the couple clothes

who are our sponsors, and I can never say enough about our volunteers who do a phenomenal job."

McMichael added that the group received a great response from vendors during the application process.

"Every year we listen to feedback from vendors and attendees, and then we tweak and improve where necessary," he said. "As always, we were blessed with the overwhelming

Want to go?  
WHAT: 38th annual Aiken's Makin'  
WHEN: Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
WHERE: Park Avenue, located in downtown Aiken  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit [www.aikensmakin.net](http://www.aikensmakin.net)







The  
**WAIT**  
is  
**OVER**



**Cease-fire**

But Israel, Hamas put off  
dealing with tough issues **A3**

# Herald-Journal

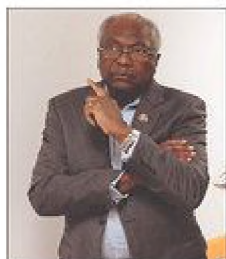
**WEDNESDAY**

AUGUST 27, 2014  
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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY

**5** Things  
to read  
today



## Clyburn honored

U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, the third-highest-ranking Democrat in the House, was given the Environmental Justice Pioneer Award at a celebration Tuesday at Spartanburg Community College's downtown campus. **PAGE C1**

## Peace plan

Ukraine's president said Wednesday that Vladimir Putin accepts the principles of a peace plan for Ukraine but the Russian leader insisted that only Kiev can reach a cease-fire deal with the pro-Moscow separatists. **PAGE A3**

## Veterans issues

His standing with veterans damaged by scandal, President Barack Obama on Tuesday defended his administration's response to Veterans Affairs lapses that delayed health care for thousands of former service members, but conceded more needed to be done to regain their trust. **PAGE A4**

## Body found

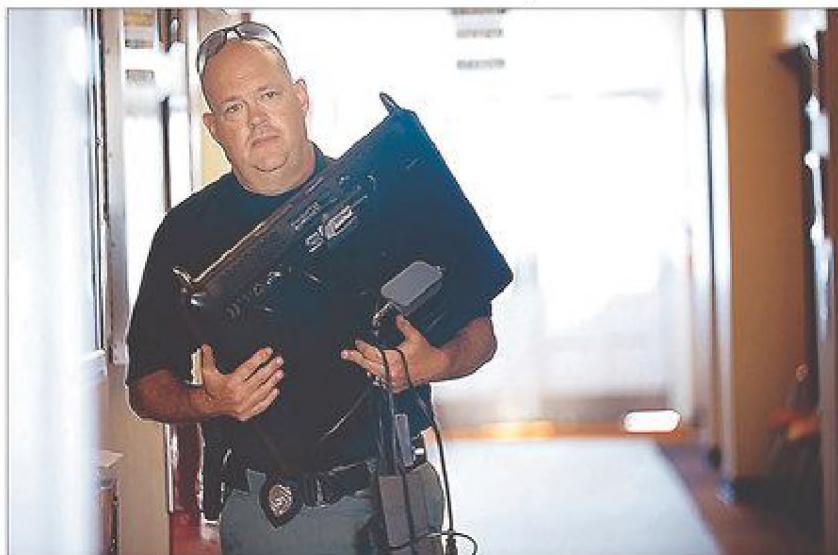
Authorities are conducting a death investigation after human remains were found in a briar patch in the Cowpens area Tuesday afternoon. **PAGE C1**

## Testing the waters

Nashville-based Captain D's hopes to test the waters in Spartanburg County. The fast-casual seafood chain is looking at 20 new stores in the Upstate, including a handful of locations in Spartanburg. **PAGE C4**

## EQUIPMENT SEIZED

Authorities take items from Lyman Town Hall



PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHU.COM

A law enforcement official carries a piece of equipment out of Lyman Town Hall on Tuesday afternoon

## Council suspends ex-public works director Tuesday

By FELICIA KITZMILLER  
felicia.kitzmiller@shu.com

Law enforcement confiscated computer equipment from Lyman Town Hall, and Town Council suspended former Public Works Director Alan Johnson without pay Tuesday afternoon, town officials said.

With little more than an hour and a half of notice, council held an emergency meeting Tuesday afternoon. While council members were in a closed-door session discussing a personnel matter, law enforcement entered Town Hall and were seen leaving the building with at least one computer. A town employee said state and federal authorities took the machine from Mayor Rodney Turner's office.

According to a town employee, a search warrant was also executed at Turner's home on Tuesday and computer equipment was seized.

Turner did not attend Tuesday's meeting and could not be reached by phone afterward.

Thom Berry, spokesman for the State Law Enforcement Division, confirmed agents were active in the Lyman area as part of an ongoing investigation, but declined to elaborate.



Some of the computer equipment seized in Lyman on Tuesday.

without pay. After the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Tony Wyatt would only say the person was a department head and an ongoing investigation led to the personnel action.

"Our labor attorney advised this was the best course of action," he said.

A council member later confirmed the suspended employee was Johnson.

Johnson also could not be reached for comment.

Johnson was the town's public works director until this spring. Shortly after settling a lawsuit with Startek Jackson Wellford Duncan Water District, council voted to not Johnson in charge

planning matters. He was taken away from daily operations of the public works department and no longer supervised a staff.

At the close of the meeting, a locksmith began replacing locks on Town Hall for the second time this month.

Days after the Aug. 12 election in which town voters approved a shift in government from a strong-mayor to a council form, council passed several emergency measures to seize control of town assets, including surveillance equipment. Wyatt said council didn't know who had access to recordings from that equipment. Turner said authorized users included himself, Police Chief

## Man free after 20 years in prison

Charges dismissed in NC sex abuse case; Michael Alan Parker staying in Cowpens

By RENEE BINDEWALD  
Halifax Media Group

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — After more than 20 years behind bars, Michael Alan Parker, 57, walked past the barbed wire gates of Craggy Correctional Center and looked out at the mountain skyline on Tuesday morning.

Convicted of sexually abusing his three children in a 1994 trial charged with allegations of Satanism, Parker was freed after Superior Court Judge Marvin Pope ruled Monday that the medical evidence would no longer be interpreted as proof of sexual abuse. Pope vacated Parker's sentence and dismissed the charges against him.

"It's tragic the way the system works, but you know the thing about it is ... I feel that if you trust in God, keep the faith, stay the course, you're going to prevail the way I did today," Parker said after leaving prison Tuesday. "I have learned the hard way, you've got to appreciate everything. You can't take anything for granted, no matter how small. The small things is what means the most."

Parker was first jailed in February 1993, when he and several co-defendants were accused of abusing Parker's three children in and near their home in Saluda, N.C.

At trial in 1994, Parker's children testified in graphic detail about abuse that prosecutors labeled ritualistic. The 9-year-old girl testified that she had been sexually abused in a garage behind their home. She said a fire was burning inside a circle made of rocks, and she heard people chanting in soft voices.

In an emotion-charged atmosphere, then-Assistant District Attorney Mike Edwards called the trailer park where the family lived "Sodom and Saluda" and quoted the



Parker







MONEY

Will you take  
the ice-bucket  
challenge? C1

# School board approves travel 'bonus'

Trustees vote 4-3 to raise  
their meal, incidental pay

BY JADE REYNOLDS  
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(803) 774-1250

Sumter School District trustees will soon start getting a little more money to travel.

In a 4-to-3 vote, the board voted to

increase meal and incidental expenses from \$75 to \$125 per day for both in-state and out-of-state meetings. Chairman Keith Schultz, clerk of the board the Rev. Daryl McGhaney, trustee Larry Addison and trustee Barbara Jackson voted in favor of the change. Vice Chairwoman Patty Wilson, trustee Karen Michalik and trustee the Rev. Ralph Canty voted nay.

"Right now I'm the chairperson of the budget committee, and I kind of

look at every spending like I'm controlling my own personal checkbook," Wilson said. "I think it's (the amount of money) adequate for me as an individual, and it's a personal preference of mine to leave it where it is until it's a burden for somebody. My concern was getting all the other people paid adequately such as retirees and bus drivers long before we started looking at our money, and we're just now doing that."

At the Aug. 11 board meeting, the board did unanimously approve an adjustment to retiree compensation as well as a 7 percent increase in bus driver pay.

"I support the decision of the board, but it didn't pass my personal litmus test," Michalik said. "Every time I go to vote, I always ask myself, 'What will it do for the classroom? How will

SEE TRAVEL, PAGE A10

## SUMTER'S K-9 UNITS AND THEIR HANDLERS

*Man's protector at work, best friend at home*



ZOEY MILLER / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

Cpl. Cameron Prescott, left, and Cpl. William Self, Sumter County Sheriff's Office deputies, exercise a K-9 named Dina recently by provoking her before sending her on a search for hidden drugs around the training grounds at the office. The dogs are trained to bite but also to protect their deputy companions. The dogs and deputies are family. At the end of the day, the dogs go home with the deputies and eat, sleep and play at the same homes. See more photos of the office's K-9 deputies and their family life on page A3.

## Gaza truce open ended but puts off tough issues

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel and Gaza's ruling Hamas agreed Tuesday to an open-ended cease fire after seven weeks of fighting — an uneasy deal that halts the deadliest war the sides have fought in years, with more than 2,200 killed, but

Hamas declared victory, even though it had little to show for a war that killed 2,143 Palestinians, wounded more than 11,000 and left some 100,000 homeless.

On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers and five civilians were killed, the last a man killed



Diquandre Rhabb leaves a hearing room at Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center after being denied bond Tuesday afternoon.

JIM HILLEY / THE SUMTER ITEM

Suspect remains behind bars





# THE JOURNAL

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75 Cents



## WHAT NERVES?

*Swinney shrugs off first-game jitters for Stoudt. C1*

**MONDAY MENU:** *Summery recipes for Labor Day holiday. B1*  
**UNEASY DEAL:** *Israel, Hamas agree to open-ended cease-fire. D1*

## Zoning board stalls again on Mountain Rest group home

BY STEVEN BRADLEY  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Some of the faces had changed since last month, but the outcome did not: Oconee's Board of Zoning Appeals opted to delay a decision on the expansion of a Mountain Rest group home.

For the second time in as many months, the

BZA voted Tuesday to table a hearing on whether Whetstone Academy could move forward with a new dormitory in order to gather more information the board considers vital to its decision.

Again, a contingent of Mountain Rest residents turned out vociferously in opposition to the expansion, with county zoning administrator

Josh Stephens saying the matter had received "the most (public comment) we've received in quite awhile about an issue." Some speakers also sided with Whetstone, a home for bullied boys between the ages of 10 and 14.

The board ultimately instructed Stephens to obtain an answer from the Department of Social Services on whether

Whetstone needs additional licensing and to seek input from county attorney Tom Martin as to whether board members could amend their original exemption from 2011 to include provisions for Whetstone.

"I can still ask Tom that question, but I'm going to guess the an-

SEE ZONING, PAGE A5



PHOTOS BY JESSICA NELMS | THE JOURNAL



No leaks, no injuries after tanker and car collide

**R**escue workers responded Tuesday to an accident between a tanker truck and a car on U.S. Highway 123 near FoxNest Veterinary Hospital near Seneca. The truck was carrying cooking oil, but officials at the scene there were no leaks or spills, and no injuries were reported.



NORMAN CANANNA | THE JOURNAL

A Seneca electric bus is recharged for a road test. Officials hope the recent delivery of a spare e-bus means passenger service will begin soon.

## Proterra delivers spare bus to city

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Proterra Inc., the Greenville-based maker of emission-free electric buses, recently delivered a spare e-bus to Seneca that one city official said he hopes is a prelude to passenger service beginning "relatively soon."

Unlike the fleet of four blue, gold and white painted buses with the names of Seneca and CAT Bus on the side, the generic spare is all white with no embellishments, Seneca planning director Ed Halbig said Tuesday.

Halbig said the spare was not purchased, but was provided by Proterra as part of the city's agreement with the company

stipulating a spare bus would be available until a fifth bus is purchased and delivered.

"The spare bus is for when passenger service begins, and we hope it will begin relatively soon," Halbig said. "We've got the spare bus in place, so that if one or two of the buses are out for any reason, then we still have three that can operate."

Seneca purchased four electric buses from Proterra through a \$4.1 million Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant.

Originally, the e-buses

SEE SPARE, PAGE A3

## Seneca previews Light and Water warehouse plans

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — City officials previewed a layout drawing of where Seneca Light and Water will construct a new warehouse facility on city-owned property to store its trucks and equipment.

Seneca Light and Water director Bob Faires displayed the drawing at a city council work session Tuesday evening.

The approximately five

Department at the Lowery Building on North Second Street.

City officials initially wanted to move the Light and Water Department, along with its trucks and equipment, to the 12-acre former Kellett Elementary School property in the Adams residential subdivision. However, residents in the community rose up late last year in opposition to the project to stop it.

The new project has been scaled back because of the smaller dimensions of the property and so has its budget — from approximately \$4 million



BY GREG OLIVER  
THE JOURNAL

EASLEY — Acting on the recommendation of the facilities committee, the Pickens County School Board voted 4-2 Monday night to purchase two new activity buses for \$250,000 to assist an aging fleet.

Judy Edwards, who chairs the facilities committee, said the committee acted upon superintendent Danny Merck's request that new buses were needed immediately.

"There are things we want to look at — outsourcing is one, activities are another, but it is the







**TENSE TIGERS** Clemson worried about more than just stopping Georgia's Gurley. **Page 1D**

# Morning News

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27, 2014

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Mostly sunny, nice,  
low humidity, high 92,  
low 62

DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

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## Labor Day race: 'The tradition returns'

Darlington Raceway officials confirm new race date

Members of Jimmie Johnson's pit crew stand by during the 64th annual Bojangles' Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on May 11, 2013.



GAVIN JACKSON  
MORNING NEWS

BY LOU BEZJAK  
Morning News  
lbezjak@florencenews.com

**DARLINGTON** — Chip Wile finally has an answer to the question he's been asked many times since he took over at Darlington Raceway more than a year ago: Will the Southern 500 ever return to Labor Day

### INSIDE

Move to Labor Day weekend means Darlington Raceway will have big say in determining Chase field. **1D**

weekend?

Wile can finally answer yes as NASCAR officially announced what had been rumored for the

last couple weeks that Darlington's race date will be moved back to its traditional Labor Day weekend. Darlington's race weekend will be Sept. 4-6, 2015, with the VFW Sport Clips 200 Nationwide Series race run in the afternoon Sept. 5.

The Bojangles' Southern

See **RACE**, Page 3A



PHOTOS BY VASEY CONWAY/MORNING NEWS

Sheila Barnes (left) and Cathy Pate talk prior to a presentation about the history of tobacco in the Pee Dee on Tuesday night in the Waters building in downtown Florence. The event was the first for the building since its recent renovation. "They've done a really good job with the restoration," Pate said. "Aesthetically, it's just a really pleasing building."

## A Waters-shed moment

Building hosts its first event since renovation; presentation showcases region's tobacco history

BY VEASEY CONWAY  
Morning News  
vconway@florencenews.com

**FLORENCE** — It was a fitting venue for a presentation centered around Pee Dee history.

The historic Waters building, downtown on Dargan Street, hosted its first event since its recent renovation Tuesday night with a presentation by Dr. Wink Prince and Benton Henry, who collaborated on "The Great Harvest," a book which documents the Pee Dee's history as a center for tobacco.

The Pee Dee Land Trust organized the presentation.

With crates of artwork still wait-



Attendees talk prior to the first event in the newly renovated Waters building.

ing to be unpacked (the space will also serve as an annex for the Florence County Museum next door), the ground floor of the Waters building — with large front windows, high ceilings and an open floor plan — was well-suited for

such an event, according to several attendees.

"It's really a remarkable space, and it's a real honor to use it," said David Harper, the executive

See **BUILDING**, Page 4A

## Secretary of State candidate Deerin stops in Florence

Democrat sees a need for fewer regulations, improved transparency

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

**FLORENCE** — Reduce government waste, cut regulations, streamline operations for businesses, cut fees, create efficiencies and make it easier for people to create businesses. Sounds like a good platform for a Republican, but Ginny Deerin is a Democrat and she's on a mission to become the next South Carolina Secretary of State.

Deerin kicked off a four-day, statewide listening tour Tuesday at the Gould Business Incubator at Florence-Darlington Technical College where several community and business members gave her feedback, while she told them

why she is running to oversee the "big filing cabinet in Columbia."

"An office that is a service office, that's all it is, business transactions and nonprofit transactions, it's paperwork. It's literally a secretary in an office, and I feel like there is a lot of improvement to be made," Deerin said. "And I'd love to do that."

One of her main targets is the SOS website, where she said that of the 129 different filings the state office oversees, only four can be done online. That's in addition to regulations that limit businesses and especially nonprofits, something that she would comprehensively evaluate if elected.

"I'd like to cut fees, particularly for nonprofits. I think fees should be

See **DEERIN**, Page 3A



GAVIN JACKSON/MORNING NEWS

Democratic Secretary of State candidate Ginny Deerin speaks to members of the Florence community Tuesday at the Gould Business Incubator on the Florence-Darlington Technical College Campus. The event kicked off a four-day listening tour for Deerin, who will be criss-crossing the state to hear from people on how they interact with the SOS office and what can be done to improve it.

## Women's Equality Day celebration sheds light on Eleanor Roosevelt

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY  
Morning News  
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held at the Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation Library and featured a special presentation by Darlington City Councilwoman

presentation of Roosevelt's life. "Eleanor Roosevelt really helped pave the way for women today to be taken seriously when

on many of the issues she was concerned about, such as the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the

Frances Elmore, president of the League of Women Voters of the Florence Area, said without people like Roosevelt,







Odd

100  
OBJECTS  
IN 100 DAYS

DAY 73

A2 and  
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1 DAY AWAY  
TO KICKOFF



END-OF-SUMMER  
**COOKOUT**  
Check out our recipe for super  
savory chop-your-own burgers  
**TASTE, A8**



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2014

# The Times and Democrat

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T&D CORRESPONDENT BILLY ROBINSON  
Fire burned down Blake's Auto Sales, Three Crosses Outreach ministry and Trash n Treasures in Norway on Aug. 6. Businessman Thomas M. Blake has been accused of hiring someone to burn his building, with the blaze spreading to others.

## SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

### Questions continue on district merger plan

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
T&D Staff Writer

SANTEE — Speakers at a public hearing on a school consolidation legislation continued to question the value of the plan and why senators didn't consult with others before proposing it.

Elerbe Hightower of Santee said, "One thing we need to understand is our senators are worried about money. And bigger doesn't always mean better."

"What you've got to understand is that the smaller schools are going (to close) first," Hightower said. He is concerned that when an area loses a superintendent, then the area "loses authority."

About 150 people showed up for a public hearing Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, hosted on the topic of school consolidation at Lake Marion High School on Monday night. House members have held several hearings around the county to get public input on the issue.

Sens. John Matthews, D-Bowman, and Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, co-sponsored a bill that would have consolidated Orangeburg County's three school districts into one. The bill didn't pass, but the issue is expected to come before lawmakers again next year.

During Monday's hearing, Orangeburg Consolidated School District 3 Chairman Betty Shuler stated that it was "very inconsiderate" for Orangeburg County's senators to propose a bill of such magnitude without consulting or making local House members aware of their intentions.

Shuler says she's spent considerable time reviewing the senators' school consolidation bill and comparing countywide school districts throughout the state.

If saving money is the goal of consolidation, then the three school districts may want to consider how they can cut expenses within the districts, Shuler said. OCSD 3 and OCSD 4 each have four individuals assigned to handle the financial and business affairs of their respective districts. However, OCSD 5 has 12, she said.

Shuler is concerned that consolidation would result in some individuals losing their jobs and she doesn't want anyone to lose their job.

She also questioned whether centralization of services would pose an inconvenience to schools outside of the county seat of Orangeburg.

## Police: Norway fire was arson

### Businessman accused of paying someone to torch his building

By GENE ZALESKI  
T&D Staff Writer

NORWAY — A Norway businessman has been charged with third-degree arson after allegedly hiring someone to burn his automotive repair shop. The fire spread to a Christian ministry's building.

Thomas M. Blake, 62, owner of Blake's Auto Sales, allegedly hired Norway resident Ernest Leland Smith, 52, to burn his property, according to arrest warrants. Authorities claim he gave Smith the gasoline to burn the building.

Orangeburg County Chief Magistrate Derrick Dush set a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond on Blake Tuesday.

"Mr. Blake, you cannot leave the state of South Carolina. Stay out of trouble and appear before the court," Dush told Blake, who remained silent throughout the bond hearing.

The fire not only burned Blake Auto Sales, but also adjoining Third Street buildings including Three Crosses Outreach ministry and the Trash n Treasures retail store.

Prior to bond being set, Nor-



LARRY HARGY/T&D  
Thomas M. Blake has been charged with third-degree arson. Find video of his bond hearing online at TheTandD.com.



LARRY HARGY/T&D  
Ernest Leland Smith is charged with two counts of third-degree arson.

## Norway ministry explores options after blaze

By GENE ZALESKI  
T&D Staff Writer

Bragg Williams, president of the Three Crosses Outreach Inc. board, was out of town when he learned the Norway ministry's building burned down.

When he returned and saw the remains, "I can't describe the feeling to you."

"It is a building, but there were so

many memories there and so many groups have come in over the last 12 years," he said.

Three Crosses started about 15 years ago with a ministry to children and youth in the area.

Over the years, the program expanded to include the parents of the youth and has now primarily focused on a summer youth program.

Williams said this summer the youth,

ages 4 to 12, have participated in Bible studies, worship, summer reading, exercise and baking classes. About 50 participated.

Now that only charred remains are left of the building, Williams said the ministry will go on, though where it will locate is still unknown.

"We are in the preliminary stages

See MINISTRY, A3

See FIRE, A3

See SCHOOLS, A3

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