

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Tuesday, March 11, 2014

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, March 11, 2014



**Ice
chills
home
sales**
BUSINESS,
B6

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Finalist for CofC job says characterization of him is wrong

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fare, French champagne, and spa



SPORTS LOCAL GIRL SEEKS GOLD

CURRENT FORMAT

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
Amount Per Serving	
Total Fat	15g
Sodium	100mg
Total Carbohydrate	25g
Dietary Fiber	5g
Sugars	10g
Protein	5g

PROPOSED FORMAT

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
Amount Per Serving	
Total Fat	15g
Sodium	100mg
Total Carbohydrate	25g
Dietary Fiber	5g
Sugars	10g
Protein	5g

LIFESTYLE Food labels get an upgrade

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

TUESDAY,
MARCH 11, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY

IRANIAN LINKED TO STOLEN PASSPORTS ON DOOMED JET PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

WITH HELP, MORE STAYING IN SCHOOL



Drew Perry, Greenville County Schools' dropout intervention specialist, stands between students and their plans to drop out by redirecting them into programs where they can stay in school. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

Dropout rate falling in Greenville County Schools

By Ron Barnett | Staff writer | rbarnett@greenvillenews.com

2004-2005
**867
DROPOUTS**

BY THE NUMBERS

As a result of intervention specialist Drew Perry's efforts, some students chose to complete their education through:
87 enrolled in Lifelong Learning programs
45 returned to school
28 enrolled in Satellite Diploma program
9 enrolled in Virtual

It's getting harder to drop out of high school these days in Greenville County.

For one thing, if you do, you're going to hear from Drew Perry. He's the district's dropout intervention specialist, and he makes house calls.

Between Oct. 1, 2012, and Sept. 30, 2013, he made 659 of them. He also made 1,106 phone calls to dropouts, met at schools with students who were threatening to quit 280 times and sent out 437 letters and information packets.

His efforts are just one factor district officials cite for the dropout rate falling by 32 percent between 2004-05 and 2012-13.

A myriad of programs that give students a chance to make up lost time and failed course work, plus a better system for tracking students who disappear also played a big role in reducing the proportion of students who give up on a diploma each year from 4.7 percent to 2.8 percent, according to Ken Arnold, director of attendance and social work services for the district.

"The big thing for us is our numbers are go-

2012-2013
591 DROPOUTS

See DROPOUT, Page 7A

No party council election may hurt minorities

Supports want to boost
turnout, candidates

By Anna Lee
Staff writer
alee@greenvillenews.com

City Councilwoman Amy Ryberg Doyle first raised the idea more than a year ago. Since the sorts of issues that elected officials look at are nonpartisan, why not do away with party-affiliated elections?

The issue has since moved far beyond City Hall.

In the past week, some party leaders, minority voters and one state legislator have joined in on the debate to voice their opposition. Council members who backed the idea now find themselves tangled in a voting rights issue that critics say would hurt minority voters and office seekers who they say already face policies seeking to disenfranchise African-American voters.

"It really grieves me to think we could be moving in that direction at home," said state Rep. Chandra Dillard.

Dillard, a former City Council member, said she has watched the process unfold as a city resident and as a legislator following the recent U.S. Supreme Court case that struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act.

The ink had hardly dried before Dillard said lawmakers began introducing measures to make it harder for people to vote.

The 5-4 decision has impacted everything from high-profile voter ID laws to local level elections, especially in the Deep South where jurisdictions have a legacy of discriminating against minority voters, said Todd Shaw, a professor at the University of South Carolina specializing in minority politics.

"There is a racial and ethnic divide among the parties with minorities more likely supporting the Democratic Party and whites more likely supporting the Republican Party," Shaw said.

Nonpartisan races could be interpreted as part of the larger question of voter disenfranchisement, he said.

The thought has divided Greenville's normally agreeable City Council. The majority Republican council members supporting a no-party system spoke of "dishearteningly" low voter turnout and office seekers who don't want to run under a political party on city issues.

NO. 1 ON THE LINE

Undefeated, top-ranked Gamecocks face tougher challenge as SEC play approaches. **B1**



The State

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

DUI suspect's new crash hurts boy

Man charged with driving under the influence for 6th time after collision that puts 3-year-old on life support

By JOHN MONK and
CHRIS WINSTON
jmonk@thestate.com;
cwinston@thestate.com

A man facing felony DUI charges in an accident that left a 3-year-old on life support has four previous DUI convictions and was awaiting trial in a fifth

case.

Lonnie Gross III, 44, was being held Monday without bond in the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center, according to jail records. He is charged with felony driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under suspension and a seat belt violation in connection with the Friday night accident in

Northeast Richland.

The young boy, Josiah Jenkins, was riding in a car driven by his mother, Latoya Jenkins. The two had been out to pick up a pizza to celebrate Josiah being listed in a school newsletter at Lewis Greenview Elementary School, said Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins, who is the boy's

great uncle.

The two were on North Springs Road around 10 p.m. when the suspect's vehicle allegedly veered left into Latoya Jenkins' path, said Sgt. Bob Beres of the S.C. Highway Patrol, which worked Friday night's accident.

Josiah Jenkins suffered severe head injuries and is breathing with the help of a ventilator, Aubrey Jenkins said.

Latoya Jenkins was "pretty banged up," the chief said, adding she was treated and released

from the hospital.

Gross has a history of DUI convictions, according to a State Law Enforcement Division background check. The convictions include one in Lexington in 1993, one in Kershaw County in 1999, one in Elgin in 2000 and another in Kershaw County in 2007, according to SLED records.

Gross was out on bond awaiting trial in a November 2013 DUI

SEE DUI CRASH PAGE A6

EXCLUSIVE

Tax incentive for private dorms breaks new ground in Richland County

By DAWN HINSHAW
dhinshaw@thestate.com

The owners of a 600-bed student apartment complex at Blossom and Huger streets could see their property taxes cut in half for the next 10 years under a first-of-its-kind economic development deal approved by Richland County.

Council members say they are willing to extend tax breaks to new projects beyond traditional manufacturing to include not only private dorms but big retail developments and shopping centers — a practice one S.C. think tank called "a terrible idea."

Manhattan-based Park 7 Group is the first beneficiary of the council's more generous policy. County Council members say two similar deals await approval in coming weeks, potentially saving the owners of the three downtown student apartment projects more than \$10 million in taxes they normally would pay to support basic services such as police, parks, libraries and schools.

Historically, counties have used tax breaks to lure corporate headquarters and manufacturers that create large numbers of new jobs.

But Richland County's economic development committee members say because local tax rates are high, they're prepared to deliver incentives for other multimillion-dollar investments.

"The discussion is not to do it or not to do it, but how best to do it," committee chairman Councilman Paul Livingston said last week.

SEE INCENTIVES PAGE A6

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY



"He's Hall of Fame law enforcement, and he's right here. His reputation is pretty strong. His capabilities are not in question."

Tim Smith, Five Points Association president



"We don't need to do it now, in the middle of the city manager's search. It undermines and demoralizes the members of the Police Department."

Christie Savage, Eau Claire Community Council president

Let Lott run police? Council against idea



Columbia City Councilman Cameron Runyan, joined Monday by community representatives, proposes that Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott take over the city police force.

FATHER SPEAKS OUT

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, March 11, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 70 Aiken, S.C. ★ 75¢



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Nineteen young people from Aiken County are led by USC Aiken's Dr. Joel Scrapper during a rehearsal for their performance in Bach's "Saint Matthew Passion" on Friday. They will appear with professional singers at First Baptist Church of Aiken as the finale for the week's Juilliard in Aiken program.

Young vocalists prepare for Juilliard rendition

BY ROB NOVIT
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

For more than three hours on Sunday, the vocalists worked diligently on Bach's "Saint Matthew's Passion" at the First Baptist Church of Aiken. They're Aiken County students who are getting a remarkable gift with the formal performance at the church on Friday at 7 p.m.

They will join not only the prestigious and Grammy-winning The Choir of Trinity Wall Street from New York, but talented Juilliard musicians, as well. This will be the closing event for Juilliard in Aiken in collaboration with the Juilliard School in New York.

"It's a really good opportunity," said Maria Spann, 17, a South Aiken High School chorus member. "It's challenging to learn all the German and sing with new people."

The 19 students were selected through auditions. They have rehearsed every other week since

What a great opportunity this is. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and they've done a really good job.

Dr. Joel Scrapper, choral activities director at USC Aiken

early January with Dr. Joel Scrapper, the choral activities director at USC Aiken.

Juilliard and The Choir of Trinity Wall Street had chosen Bach's piece and wanted to utilize it for a children's chorus, Scrapper said.

"This has been a challenge for a lot of reasons," he said. "They are singing in German and will be working with two professional ensembles. What a great opportunity this is. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and they've done a really good job."

Along with Spann, the students are Madeline Seconi, Soteria DeCiel Raymond, Harmony Love Raymond, Lily Livingston, Wa-

verly Mayer, Katie Worrell, Liam Culp, Katie Noel, Michael Hanger Jr., Briannah Woodhams, Aaron Towner, Jamie Sevilla, Katelyn Kirk, Lauren Hanger, Allie Jo Hodson, RicPriscilla Byrnes, Alice Dyches and Britany Hawkins.

They will join the 24 choir members of The Choir of Trinity Wall Street and soloists from the Juilliard vocal department.

Lily has been busy of late, having performed two solos at Chukker Creek Elementary School's Black History program on Friday. Her voice teacher, Diane Haslam, encouraged her to audition.

Please see JUILLIARD, Page 10A



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Aaron Towner, a Paul Knox Middle School seventh-grader, rehearses with 18 other students for a performance with professional vocalists at the Juilliard in Aiken's final program following a week of music presentations.

Man pleads guilty to sex assault

BY TEDDY KULMALA
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A former high school track coach pleaded guilty on Monday to kidnapping, beating and sexually assaulting a woman while she was walking in downtown Aiken last year.

Derek Randolph Brooks, 38, pleaded guilty to first-degree criminal sexual conduct, assault and battery of a

high and aggravated nature and kidnapping. He was sentenced by Circuit Court Judge Thomas Cooper to 20 years in prison.

Brooks' case was supposed to go to trial on Monday. He faced up to 80 years in prison if convicted. He was originally charged with attempted murder but was indicted on assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature.

Victim, suspect address court

Before sentencing, Cooper heard from the victim, her father, Aiken Public Safety Chief Charles Baranco, Brooks' father and Brooks himself.

"My heart breaks for the defendant's family and his children," the victim said, referring to Brooks' wife and two children. She asked for the maximum sentence against her attacker.

"I would hate for this to happen to any other girl," she said.

The victim's father asked that Brooks' sentences for his charges run consecutively.

Brooks first asked God for forgiveness while addressing the court, then turned to the victim.

Please see GUILTY, Page 11A

AREA DEATHS

Barbara Blocker, Aiken
Carolyn M. Kauffman, North Augusta
Ethel R. Smith, Aiken
Frances Farris Gattis, Jackson
Mary Corley Cato, Eureka
Rickey Tyrone Tyler, Wagoner
Steward Carter, Trenton
Sylvia Lamb Wooley, Graniteville
Tommy Berrie Sr., Graniteville

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Security tightened at Relay For Life

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

Organizers of the Relay For Life of Aiken are taking steps to ensure that the fundraiser's 2014 edition will be trouble-free after past problems with fighting, unruly behavior and other disruptions. Security will be tighter, and rules will be stricter.

"We are determined to make it a fun, safe and special event," said Lisa Glass, the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life specialist for Aiken and Edgefield counties. "We're going to do everything we



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Leading the Survivor's Walk with the banner at the Aiken Relay For Life last year are, from left, Annie Brown, Becky Holtzendorff, Donna Smith and Emily Lockard.

ken High School's football stadium. "We're going to have four paid officers there the entire time; in the past, we've had two paid officers there the entire time," Glass said.

Glass expects other Public Safety representatives to attend the Relay For Life festivities, and some might even participate in the fundraising effort because the City of Aiken will be fielding a relay team this year.

In addition, people who aren't involved in Relay For Life as cancer survivors, caregivers or relay team members will be required to register



The Beaufort Gazette

TUESDAY, March 11, 2014

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IN NORTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY

Authorities: 4 injured in separate shootings

Former Beaufort High School football, basketball player among those wounded in unconnected incidents

By MATT McNAB
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843-706-8125

A former Beaufort High School football and basketball player was among four people injured in separate shootings across northern Beaufort County over the weekend.

Two of the shootings — one in Burton, the other in Seabrook — occurred Friday within a half-hour span. The other two — in Burton and on St. Helena Island — happened on Sunday, about 16 hours apart.

The shootings were not connected and none were fatal, authorities said.

FORMER ATHLETE INJURED

Beaufort High graduate Thomas Parker, 19, is still in Beaufort Memorial Hospital after being shot in the face at about 6:35 p.m. Sunday near Jenkins Port Road on St. Helena Island, according to a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office news release.

Three witnesses attempted to take him to Beaufort Memorial Hospital, but were stopped by deputies on Distant Island Road. EMS responded and took Parker to the hospital.

Parker's condition has prevented investigators from interviewing him, Sgt. Robin McIntosh said. Parker is a 2013 Beaufort High School graduate. He was a receiver on the school's football team, leading the Eagles with 33 catches for 438 yards in 2012, his senior season. Also a forward for the basketball team, the 6-foot-4 Parker averaged 8.7 points and 6.8 rebounds per game his senior year.

Updates on Parker's condition were not available Monday. Attempts to reach Beaufort Memorial for comment were unsuccessful.

TO REPORT INFORMATION

Four shooting incidents in northern Beaufort County during the weekend are still under investigation by the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. Anyone with information can contact Crime Stoppers at 888-247-6372 or by texting "TIPSC" to 274637.

Please see INJURED on 7A

IN JASPER COUNTY

Federal scrutiny of schools ongoing

The district has not been given details, but several employees have been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury.

By SARAH BOWMAN
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843-706-8138

An investigation by the FBI, the Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS, and the S.C. Law Enforcement Division into alleged criminal activity in the Jasper County School District is ongoing, according to a school board leader.

However, the district has not been given details as to the cause or subject of the investigation, school board chairwoman Bertie Riley said in a statement Monday at the district's meeting.

Several district-level employees have been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury in Columbia in April related

Please see SCHOOLS on 7A

The (w)hole problem



THEOPHIL SYSSLO • Staff photo

Workers with JoCo Construction fix sinkholes Monday in the sidewalk between the Beaufort Downtown Marina and Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park. Isiah Smalls, city public service and facilities management director, said it should take eight days to fix the three depressions. The repairs are estimated to cost \$15,000. The sinkholes, which first appeared in November, had undergone temporary repairs.

MISSING MALAYSIA AIRLINES JET

Oil, debris determined not from plane

By SIMON DENYER, WILLIAM WAN and ASHLEY HALSEY III
The Washington Post

BEIJING — Frustration mounted Monday over what has become one of the most perplexing aviation disasters in history, as the search for a vanished Malaysia Airlines passenger jet dramatically expanded in its third day.

Hopes for a breakthrough were dashed when Malaysian authorities said oil found on the ocean surface had been tested and found not to

EXPERTS: JETLINER LIKELY TO BE FOUND

Teams searching for the wide-body jetliner that vanished off Vietnam almost certainly will locate it and figure out what brought it down, according to aviation investigators and case files spanning four decades.

Planes seemingly lost with-

submerged, which will help crews locate them, said John Fish, vice president of American Underwater Search and Survey of Bourne, Mass.

Even if the pingers can't be traced, current underwater technology, which can map the ocean floor with high-definition sonar, operates at the deepest depths known, he said.

Once the missing Malaysian

County Council dials back reserve policy plan

Proposal says Beaufort County "will strive" to gradually increase the fund until it equals about 30 percent of the total budget.

By ZACH MURDOCK
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843-706-8147

Beaufort County Council is dialing back its plans to bulk up its reserve fund, eliminating a proposal that eventually could have led to a tax increase.

would opt for a more modest goal.

The new proposal, like an earlier version, states the council will strive to contribute about \$800,000 a year to the fund. However, it eliminates language that would have required such a contribution — even if doing so required a tax increase.

County Council approved the new proposal at its meeting Monday afternoon in Beaufort. The policy, which has the force of law, will require two

THEY REALLY DON'T FORGET

Wild elephants remember human voices, study finds **A3**



Herald-Journal

TUESDAY

MARCH 11, 2014
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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Graphic testimony

Oscar Pistorius vomited and cried during vivid testimony Monday about the gruesome injuries he inflicted on girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp. A pathologist described how Pistorius fatally shot Steenkamp multiple times with bullets designed to cause maximum damage. **PAGE A6**

Fewer uninsured

The share of Americans without health insurance is dropping to the lowest levels since President Barack Obama took office, but sign-ups lag among Hispanics. **PAGE A3**

New top banana

Fruit supply companies Chiquita, based in Charlotte, N.C., and Fyffes of Ireland agreed to merge to create the world's biggest banana supplier, to be called ChiquitaFyffes. **PAGE D1**

Looking for mom

A woman who was abandoned as an infant at a Burger King restroom in Allentown, Pa., has taken to Facebook to try to locate her birth mother. Kathryn Depril posted a photo of herself holding a sign with a handwritten plea. **PAGE C3**

Close to war

Russia said Monday that it's drafting counterproposals to a U.S. plan for a negotiated solution to the Ukraine crisis, denouncing the new Western-backed government as an unacceptable "fait accompli." **PAGE A6**

Weather

Jets lost at sea often frustrating

Malaysian Airlines plane not first to take time to find

By **SCOTT MAYEROWITZ**
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — In an age when people assume that any bit of information is just a click away, the thought that a jetliner could simply disappear over the ocean for more than two days is staggering. But Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 is hardly the first reminder of how big the seas are, and of how agonizing it can be to try to find something lost in them.

It took two years to find the main wreckage of an Air France jet that plunged into the Atlantic Ocean in 2009. Closer to the area between Malaysia and Vietnam where Saturday's flight

vanished, it took a week for debris from an Indonesian jet to be spotted in 2007. Today, the mostly intact fuselage still sits on the bottom of the ocean.

"The world is a big place," said Michael Smart, professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Queensland in Australia. "If it happens to come down in the middle of the ocean and it's not near a shipping lane or something, who knows how long it could take them to find?"

Amid the confusion, officials involved in the search say the Malaysian jet may have made a U-turn, adding one more level of uncertainty to the effort to find it. They even suggest that the plane could be hundreds of kilometers from

◆ SEE OCEAN PAGE A5

Thai travel agents face authorities' questions about stolen passports

By **THANAYARAT DOKSONE**
The Associated Press

PATTAYA, Thailand — Authorities questioned travel agents Monday at a beach resort in Thailand about two men who boarded the vanished Malaysia Airlines plane with stolen passports, part of a growing international investigation into what they were doing on the flight.

◆ SEE PASSPORTS PAGE A5

'I'M A TERRIER'



Maggie Bosley, center, watches as the Terriers win the SoCon championship Monday night in Asheville, N.C.

Wofford community celebrates student-athlete's recovery at game

By **MATT CONNOLLY**
mattconnolly@sjc.com

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — A berth in the NCAA tournament was not all the Terriers were playing for Monday night at the U.S. Cellular Center.

Wofford also was playing for a classmate and fellow student-athlete.

Wofford women's soccer player Maggie Bosley took a trip to Argentina during Wofford's interim in January. But instead of getting an opportunity to study outside the classroom, the senior from Aiken became gravely ill.

A week into her trip, Bosley began suffering from severe vomiting and intestinal bleeding.

INSIDE

◆ Terriers going to the dance **B1**

surgery revealed that her appendix was fine.

With her fellow classmates already back in Spartanburg and doctors still unsure what was going on, Bosley finally returned to the U.S. after her week in the hospital.

Throughout her nine-hour flight to Miami, the symptoms continued. She was immediately taken to a Miami hospital upon landing and then transferred to the University of Miami hospital.

Bosley spent three weeks in the hospital in Miami, including 10 days in ICU, as doctors learned she had HUS, a disease that results from premature destruction of red blood cells. The disease clogs the kidneys and can cause life-threatening kidney failure.

Bosley suffered from seizures and went through dialysis in ICU before doctors diagnosed the disease and began treating her.

Voters may get chance to decide on fire taxes

County council to look at referendums for millage requests

By **FELICIA KITZMILLER**
felicia.kitzmiller@sjc.com

Spartanburg County Council will decide next week whether to put fire service tax rates in the hands of voters.

There is a resolution on council's Monday agenda that would require a fire service area requesting a millage increase to hold a non-binding, advisory referendum on the issue.

County Council has not voted to increase millage rates for several years. During the 2013-14 budget cycle, at least 11 of the 17 fire areas that receive county funding requested a millage rate increase. Those increases were denied across the board. At the time, fire chiefs warned that outdated equipment and personnel reductions could hurt services.

Councilman Dale Culbreth said that when the recession hit, council members began pointing fire chiefs and their board members toward referendums. Culbreth said this resolution is designed to "formalize and clarify" that policy. The referendum policy would apply to all requests for millage increases, including those that only account for inflation and growth.

"I think most of them, they need more money," Culbreth said.

No backing down

SC House denies restoration of college cuts for books

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The South Carolina House refused Monday to back down from plans to punish two public colleges in the budget for assigning freshmen to read books dealing with homosexuality.

The House rejected multiple attempts to restore \$52,000 cut from the College of Charleston in the state budget, and \$17,142 cut from the University of South Carolina Upstate. Those are the amounts the universities spent on books assigned to their incoming freshmen last summer. The efforts failed by votes of 69-41,

70-43, 71-40 and 71-38.

Opponents argued the cuts, which reduce what the colleges can spend from their own revenue sources, censor and micro-manage college decisions.

When it comes to public colleges, legislators should be debating funding and building construction, not "pushing our own moral agenda on these institutions of higher learning," said Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg.

"Are we saying we don't trust the college students enough to

expose them to something they may not have seen before? We can't let you read anything other than what we believe?" she asked. "What about the notion of freedom to have different views? Isn't this what we go all over the globe fighting for?"

College of Charleston students read "Fun Home," a book by Alison Bechdel that describes her childhood with a closeted gay father and her own coming out as a lesbian. USC Upstate assigned

See CUTS, page 4A

"I think it is always important when you have someone with a wide range of experience, both municipal and volunteer."

TOBY CHAPPELL
Greenwood County manager

GREENWOOD COUNTY

Holmes named fire coordinator

Former city firefighter to lead county's service

By CHRIS TRAINOR
ctrainor@indexjournal.com

Former longtime City of Greenwood firefighter Steve Holmes was hired as Greenwood County's new fire coordinator.

Greenwood County emergency services director Derek Kinney announced Holmes' hiring Monday afternoon.

Holmes will take the position previously held by Joe Kennedy.

Kennedy stepped down as the county's fire coordinator in January to accept a position in the private sector.

Holmes worked for the City of Greenwood Fire Department for 28 years, from 1984-2012. He was an assistant chief the last four years of that term.

Holmes also was a volunteer with Northwest Volunteer Fire Department for some time, and was a deputy chief with Northwest for several years.

"Naturally, I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to get back in the fire service in my home county," Holmes said Monday afternoon. "I started out as a volunteer way back in the early 1980s. I started out with Northwest. My dad was a founding member and he had a big influence on me getting into the fire service. ... I know the guys (in the county fire service), I have worked with the guys and they are all fine people. I hope we can have a really good working relationship and continue to make strides that they have started."

County manager Toby Chappell said the county's fire coordinator position is a critical post. He said filling the position was a key priority for the county.

Chappell said he is impressed with Holmes' resume and likes the fact Holmes has experience with a municipal department and in the volunteer service.

"I think it is always important when you have someone with a wide range of experience, both municipal and volunteer," Chappell said. "Especially when he will be an integral part of a volunteer system that covers the entire county, that also has interplay with the city on certain fire scenes. So, (to hire) someone that can show they've already bridged those two areas, that was important."

Kinney said Holmes will start his new job with the county March 17. Kinney said he thinks Holmes is a good fit for the fire coordinator role.

"I think it is fantastic, to be honest with you," Kinney said of the hiring of Holmes. "He is coming in with the spirit and the drive to do it. He has always been involved in the fire service. It will be a positive all the way around. I see this as a positive, good thing."



FRANK BUMB | INDEX-JOURNAL

Mike Ware, right, instructs students from Dickinson College how to construct a house. Colleen Brandt, left, Anya Nguyen, second from left, Taylor Evertsberg, third from left, and Lam Nguyen were four of the students that made the nine-hour drive to Greenwood to assist Habitat for Humanity.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

A mother and her children will have new house thanks to students spending spring break to build it

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

A single mother of two children will have a new home soon. She can thank students from Dickinson College and volunteers from the Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity.

Hailing from the small liberal arts college in Carlisle, Pa., 15 students gave up their spring break to make the nine-hour journey to Greenwood. Cassidy Leighton, a senior history major, made her third trip for the college's Service Trips program.

"We had two vans: a mini-van and a 12-seater van and we just drove in shifts," she said. "It's definitely one of the most rewarding experiences I can think of."

Starting bright and early Monday morning, the students built on the foundation that students from Davidson College constructed last week at 107 Springwood Trails. Crowding around the gray foundation and wooden beams, they received instruction from Mike Ware, the construction adviser for the Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity.

"They try hard," he said. "Only a few of them have any construction experience at all. But they pick things up pretty easily." Ware said it was encouraging to see the students.

"I mean, they're giving up their spring breaks, they could be on a beach somewhere," he said. "This is a Christian organization and

to see that spirit of service ... I thank the Lord every day that there are young people like this."

While the students are volunteers, they are amply provided for by the Greenwood community.

Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity executive director Chad Charles said Greenwood has an outstanding reputation for hosting volunteers.

Perhaps the biggest hit for this group of volunteers was the Sunday evening meal at The Mill House.

"It was amazing," said Rehana Rohman, a sophomore. "I had the chicken parmesan pasta and it was the best. The garlic sticks were incredible."

Capping things off with a barbecue and bonfire Thursday night at Charles' home is a fitting end to the group's service.

"We built two homes last year and this is the first one we're building this year," Charles said. "We're very proud of the groups that we've had come through Greenwood."

District 12 state Rep. Anne Parks will seek re-election

the Sumter ITEM

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

75 CENTS

3 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES | VOL. 119, NO. 124

ETV crew plans to film Farm to Table event for program

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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(803) 774-1272

Attending this week's Farm to Table event will not only get you some fresh farm produce. It could also get you on TV.

A television crew from ETV's "Making It Grow" will be at Thursday's Rotary-sponsored event, shooting footage for a future broadcast of the gardening program.

Amanda McNulty, host of "Making It Grow" and horticulturalist with Sumter County's Clemson Extension Service, said the program will highlight locally grown

SEE EVENT, PAGE A6

SPORTS

WH, Sumter get ready for home openers

B1

CLARENDON SUN

Anglers expected to flock to Santee Cooper tournament c1

DEATHS, B4, B6

William K. Harrington
James Spain Jr.
John Ashby Dick
Hallie V. McLeod
Jean Bell
Kevin W. Herring
Corseon B. Bostick
Clara Wilson

Roger W. Rice
Anna Mae G. Kerr
Robert A. Bates
Frederick L. Price
Fred Hilton
Tiffany R. Franklin
Armstead C. Baylor
Sam A. Martin Sr.

WEATHER, A10

ANOTHER WARM DAY

Mostly sunny and very warm; cloudy tonight with rain possible late.

HIGH 78, LOW 57

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Trial begins in deaths of infant, grandmother

Summerton man charged in 2011 Manning shootings

BY JIM HILLEY
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MANNING — The trial of a Summerton man charged in the shooting deaths of his nine-month-old son and the child's grandmother is underway at the Clarendon

County Judicial Center.

Twenty-four-year-old Justin Jermaine Johnson will be on trial for two counts of murder, as well as charges including kidnapping, attempted murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime before Circuit Judge Jeffery Young

this week. Attorneys for both sides agreed the case will likely take at least a week at a jury selection hearing Monday at the Clarendon County Judicial Center.

Johnson was arrested in April

SEE TRIAL, PAGE A6

Colon cancer in the spotlight during awareness campaign



PHOTOS BY JADE REYNOLDS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Dr. Kent Cunningham of Sumter Gastroenterology shows how a snare fed through a scope appears on a monitor. The snare is used to remove polyps during a colonoscopy. March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Local doctors share benefits of regular cancer screenings

BY JADE REYNOLDS

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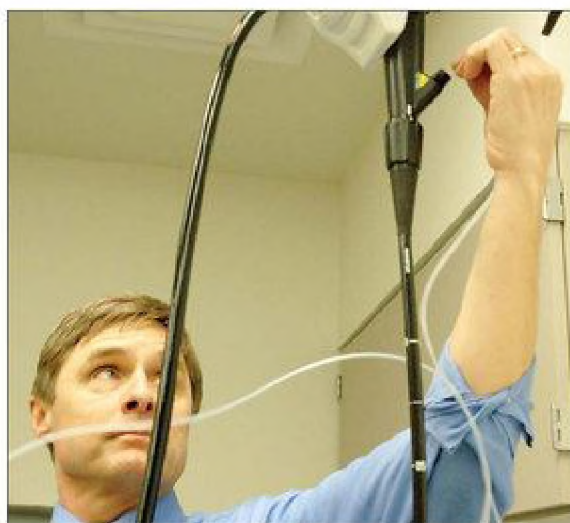
In 2010, it killed more than 52,000 Americans, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, and each year, an additional 137,000 are diagnosed with this disease.

But it's 90 percent preventable.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and this weekend was the Center for Colon Cancer Research's annual Gala, "Unmasking Colon Cancer." It raises money to provide screenings for the uninsured through the South Carolina Colon Cancer Prevention Network.

"A major misconception is if you're not having symptoms, you don't need to be tested," said Dr. Kent Cunningham with Sumter Gastroenterology. "Everybody needs to be tested."

Symptoms include changes in



Cunningham feeds a snare through the scope used in a colonoscopy. Colonoscopies are the best method for preventing colorectal cancers, he said, and the recommended testing age depends on your family history of the disease.

"The avoidance is often a perceived discomfort," Dominici said. "Every endoscopist now uses seda-

for polyps via a colonoscopy. If polyps are present, they can be removed before they become cancer-



STOCK RISING
*Former Daniel
High standout
Davidson turning
heads in spring
practice. C1*

OLÉ!: Flamenco dance company takes Brooks Center stage in Clemson tonight. B1
MALAYSIAN MYSTERY: Stolen passports probed in plane's disappearance. D1

Wreck sends 3 to hospitals

An adult and a 10-year-old were airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital after two trucks collided nearly head on early Monday morning on S.C. Highway 59 south of Seneca. The adult and child were inside a small Chevrolet pickup truck when it collided with a Chevrolet Silverado. The Silverado went over a guardrail and down an embankment. The driver of the second truck was taken to Oconee Medical Center for treatment. Conditions of the three people were not available at press time.



NORMAN CANNADA / THE JOURNAL

Seneca voters head to polls

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — City voters decide today whether to bring back the incumbents or give Seneca City Council a new look.

On election eve, candidates were expected to stay busy making phone calls, sending emails and in some instances knocking on doors in an effort to mobilize their supporters.

The weather is expected to cooperate, with sunshine and temperatures in the low 70s.

Ernest "E" Riley, who has served 16 years on council, has in the past shared his wisdom on the importance of getting out to vote.

"Get your friends out there, because your enemies are going to turn

SEE SENeca, PAGE A3

As Oconee Medical Center officials continue to ponder a partnership with Greenville Health System, The Journal spoke with representatives of other Upstate hospitals who have formed alliances with GHS.

SHARED EXPERIENCES

Former Baptist Easley CEO reflects on merger

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — While the circumstances were somewhat different from those facing Oconee Medical Center (OMC) today as it looks at "exploring a formal arrangement" with Greenville Health System (GHS), Baptist Easley Hospital made a decision to begin a 50-50 merger with GHS in 2009.

For Roddey Gettys, the long-

time chief executive officer who led Easley through the merger process and the early years of the partnership before retiring last year, the merger — in which Easley and its partner, Palmetto Health, own 50 percent and GHS owns 50 percent — was necessary. Unlike OMC, Easley already



Gettys

had a corporate partner, as it became part of Palmetto Health System more than 20 years prior to the merger with Greenville.

"As we go forward, smaller community hospitals can't stand alone," Gettys said. "They've got to attach; they've got to connect. They've got to merge somehow. I think we're headed toward a federal government-sponsored system, and if we do, pray for us. It's

not smart to stand alone based on what is going on today."

Gettys said the merger did not result in any significant job losses at Easley, something often associated with mergers. But, in hindsight, there are some things he said he would do differently if he had to do it again.

One of those would be to publish "rules of engagement"

SEE EASLEY, PAGE A5

*Laurens' experience:
'So far,
so good'*

BY BRETT McLAUGHLIN
THE JOURNAL

LAURENS — "The sky did not fall after all."

So read a Laurens County Advertiser editorial on July 3, 2013, two days after Laurens County Memorial Hospital and the Greenville Health System announced the signing of a 40-year lease, effectively turning over operations of the Laurens hospital to GHS.

But how do folks feel seven months later?

"Relieved," said a veteran reporter at The Advertiser. "I think everyone is happy we still have a hospital."

Down the road at The Clinton Chronicle, publisher Larry Franklin said, "So far, so good ... Day-to-day

SEE LAURENS, PAGE A5

Ward's salary \$100K more than Pickens County counterpart

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — The chief executive officer at Oconee Medical Center was paid \$100,000 more than the CEO at Baptist Easley Hospital, although both oversaw a budget in excess of \$130 million.

In fiscal year 2011-12, Jeanne Ward's total compensation at OMC was \$410,312, compared to \$307,080 for Roddey E. Gettys at Baptist Easley. The difference of \$103,232 between the two compensation packages was reported in IRS Form 990 filed by both hospitals. Gettys retired last year.

Michael C. Riordan, president and chief

Earnings of chief executive officers

• Jeanne Ward, Oconee Medical Center	\$410,312*
• Roddey Gettys, Baptist Easley	\$307,080*
• Michael C. Riordan, Greenville Health System	\$852,054*

* IRS 990 filing total compensation 2011-12

+ 2013 Salary

executive officer of Greenville Health System (GHS), received \$852,054 in salary in 2013, according to GHS spokeswoman Sandy Dees. GHS currently has seven hospitals

in its system, including Baptist Easley. Figures for Laurens County Memorial

SEE SALARY, PAGE A5

Retired educators express concerns over accreditation



CITY OF FLORENCE

Council focuses on neighborhoods

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The need for neighborhood redevelopment is well-known among Florence City Council members and city officials, which is why years of work will yield a strategy later this year

to create vibrant and sustainable neighborhoods to counter the blight plaguing many.

Neighborhood redevelopment was not on council's agenda Monday, but John Jebaily, Chairman of the Parks and Beautification Commission, sparked the conversation in his annual presentation to council when discussing the city's most unwanted

welcome sign that greets visitors traveling west into the city—the dilapidated motel.

"However, I wish to again remind council of the dilapidated, closed down motel adjacent to the playground and Levy Park," Jebaily said. "The motel houses undesirable activities within 50

feet of children playing on swing sets."

The motel, built in 1965 and currently owned by Naty Patel, is right outside of the city limits but efforts between the owner, county and city are still ongoing. Past efforts to obtain a Community Development Block Grant failed. Add in demolition

hurdles like cost, asbestos abatement and debris removal, and it becomes clear why such blight remains and brings neighborhoods down with it.

"I think that place has a real negative effect on the growth, most especially on east Florence

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

SC GOP discusses strategy

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The secret to garnering more votes for a political candidate never seemed much like a secret — with candidates and pundits figuring that making the loudest and baddest noise meant votes — but when trying to make someone consider a different political party, the secret appears to be the opposite.

Listening.

That's the message Nse Ekpo, the South Carolina Republican Party Second Vice Chairman, shared in a speech hosted by the Florence County Republican Party Monday evening at the Floyd Conference Center at Carolinas Hospital System.

"If we could be more proactive in reaching out, we could have more success in finding out what people care about," Ekpo said. "We really can help people with our views and our values, but we don't spend a lot of time talking about that. We spend a lot of time either cutting down other views or beating people over the head with some views, but there is a solution. It looks different from a democratic and liberal solution because we have different ideologies, but this is a solution."

Ekpo, a black Republican, told the all white and predominantly, if not entirely, Republican audience, that such tactics don't help diverse voices of the GOP — specifically black voters, but he understands that challenges exist.

"Going back to that historical experience, the experience is of such weight and magnitude that people in our generation tend to discount it," Ekpo said. "Now if they're under 40, that older generation I believe even them they can change, but we can't discount that we have to metabolize that we have to feel that."

Raised by his mother, a Democrat, in Sumter, Ekpo said he came to realize his Republican affiliation

True thru-and-thru-and-thru

Retired Florence man hiking Appalachian Trail for third time

BY VEASEY CONWAY
Morning News
vconway@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — There must be many different ways to prepare for a roughly 2,180 mile hike; abandon your house for a tent in the backyard, for instance. Make regular circuits on the treadmill or track. Break in a pair of boots.

Without any hint of sarcasm, Bert Bausmith, 68, retired, said he carries his golf clubs. Throw in his leg workouts, and he's good to go.

Bausmith is thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail (AT), a continuous footpath that stretches from Georgia to Maine. He's fully hiked it twice already and should be gone for about four months and a week.

Why hike the trail for a third time? Aren't the steps the same? One motivation for Bausmith

"All these people, all your peers. Lawyers, retired military. None of that matters. I've developed friendships with kids in their 20s. None of that matters — where you came from, what you did — when you're out there, you're just a hiker."

Bert Bausmith

Reed, 12, for the six-hour drive down to Springer Mountain in north Georgia, the southernmost point on the AT.

As Bert makes his way northward, the southern Appalachians, Great Smoky Mountains and southern Virginia will eventually give way to flatter highlands.



VEASEY CONWAY/MORNING NEWS

Bert Bausmith, 68, poses for a portrait before he sets out to thru-hike the roughly 2180-mile Appalachian Trail for the third time. "The thing I like about the wilderness is the serenity that's out there," he said. "It's a very peaceful place."

Southern New England is marked by hills and mountains, but small towns dot the area, too. New Hampshire and Maine, the last portion of the trail, hold the most challenging terrain. The pathway ends atop the 5,269 foot Mt. Katahdin.

He'll be hiking alone. "During the day I'm perfectly content to be walking by myself," he said. "I like being aware of my surroundings."

But the thought of hiking solo for thousands of miles betrays the reality of the trail. The hiking community is strong — thru-hikers will share shelters, coffee

and stories. They'll team up for trips into the small towns that dot the trail, where they go for supplies, washing machines or simply a real meal at a restaurant. The hikers watch out for one another.

"All these people, all your peers. Lawyers, retired military. None of that matters. I've developed friendships with kids in their 20s. None of that matters — where you came from, what you did — when you're out there, you're just a hiker," Bausmith said.

See **BAUSMITH**, Page 3A

See **GOP**, Page 3A

Laurel Gardens accused of elderly mistreatment



CMYK



Odd

IT'S UNANIMOUS!

CAROLINA
RANKED #1

ALL POLLS HAVE USC
HOLDING TOP SPOT, B1



TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

The Times and Democrat

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TheTandD.com

| 2 SECTIONS, 12 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 70

'It is a new board'

S.C. State moves to address SACS concerns

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina State University trustees have approved changes in the way they conduct business in advance of an April visit by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools officials.

The accrediting agency placed S.C. State on warning last year.

"We want to be as affirmative as possible in responding to

SACS," President Thomas Elzey said Monday. "We want to be able to put ourselves in the best possible light and be as accurate as possible."

Trustees on Monday approved the draft of a plan by consultant Silver and Associates designed to address the concerns of SACS. The draft covered a number of topics, including the proper role of the board in relation to the administration and board ethics re-

lated to conflicts of interest.

One trustee questioned rules governing the roles of the board and the administration, a key concern raised by SACS last June when it placed the university on warning. The year-long warning is the lesser of two sanctions SACS can impose, often preceding probation.

See BOARD, A2

Man dies following collision

T&D Staff Report

A Bowman man died in a two-vehicle collision that happened south of Orangeburg Sunday afternoon.

S.C. Highway Patrol investigators said the 69-year-old man was attempting to make a turn across Bamberg Highway around 4:20 p.m.

Near the fork with Highway 70, a second car struck the man's vehicle.

He was transported to an area hospital and died about four and a half hours later.

The victim's name has not been released, pending notification of his

relatives.

More information will be made available on the collision as it is released.

He was the fifth person killed on Orangeburg County's roadways this year, according to figures from the S.C. Department of Public Safety. This time last year, the county had four fatalities.

No one has died on Bamberg County's roads so far this year, compared to two during the same period last year.

Two people have died in Calhoun County crashes so far this year, compared to one the year before.



People prepare to release a sky lantern Monday during a candlelight vigil for passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The search operation for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 which has involved 34 aircraft and 40 ships from several countries covering a 50-nautical mile radius from the point the plane vanished from radar screens between Malaysia and Vietnam continues after its disappearance since Saturday.

Calhoun County needs own jail, Summers says

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Calhoun County needs to build its own jail, Sheriff Thomas Summers says.

"Anything is better than going to Orangeburg," he told Calhoun County Council during a work session Monday.

Calhoun and Orangeburg counties used to share oversight of the jail in Orangeburg through a jointly appointed commission. Orangeburg County took control of the jail to deal with its deficit.

Calhoun County now contracts with Orangeburg County to house its inmates because it doesn't have a county jail.

Summers said Calhoun County officers made a total of six trips to the Orangeburg County Detention Center for one prisoner during a recent arrest.

When Calhoun County inmates are housed

See JAIL, A2

Stolen passports probed in Malaysian plane mystery

By THANAYARAT DOKSONE
and JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

PATTAYA, Thailand — Authorities questioned travel agents Monday at a beach resort in Thailand about two men who boarded the vanished Malaysia Airlines plane with stolen



Ott: State owes more to counties

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

State Rep. Russell Ott says South Carolina should fulfill its obligation to local governments.

The Local Government Fund, "is a promise that was made to the coun-



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