

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>

To:

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The Post and Courier

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Friday, April 29, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Haley: Keep Gitmo prisoners out of S.C.



"Keep the terrorists where they are, where they belong," Gov. Nikki Haley testified Thursday.

Tells House subcommittee 'Charleston stared hate directly in the eye'

BY EMMA DUMAIN
edumain@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — Guantanamo Bay and the shootings at Emanuel AME Church were subjects of debate Thursday when Gov. Nikki Haley was on Capitol Hill to argue against relocating prisoners from the Cuban

detention center to the Naval Consolidated Brig Charleston. Invited to testify before the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, Haley said Charleston already had been through enough to be forced to share a ZIP code with suspected terrorists.

Palmetto Politics
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"Last summer the people of Charleston stared hate directly in the eye. We know true hate, and

we know what real fear feels like," Haley said in her opening remarks. "We don't need to see it again, nor do we wish it on any other state. Keep the terrorists where they are, where they belong. Don't bring them to my home."

Please see **HALEY**, Page A6

Poll: S.C. blacks, whites agree flag needed to go

Black residents say racism most important problem facing nation



Nearly 15,000 people joined the Bridge to Peace Unity Chain on the Ravenel Bridge on June 21, 2015, four days after a white gunman killed nine black worshippers at Emanuel AME Church. A Winthrop University poll gauged South Carolinians' view on racial progress.

BY SCHUYLER KROPP
skropp@postandcourier.com

When it comes to issues of black and white in South Carolina, most agree it was the right decision to bring the Confederate battle flag down from the Statehouse grounds following the racially motivated Emanuel AME Church shooting last year.

But beyond that, there still remains a level of mistrust and fin-

Inside
Winthrop poll results. **A7**

ger-pointing over who is responsible for the climate today, a poll by Winthrop University released Thursday has found.

Take this example: Some 83 percent of black residents who responded to the survey believe that far too little is being taught about African-American

history in South Carolina public schools.

Forty percent of whites, however, say the lessons represent "the right amount."

Also: Heading into the presidential election season, black residents believe that racism is the most important problem facing the country, the survey found.

The answer covers their view on all parts of the nation, including far

beyond South Carolina's borders.

The issue of race was mentioned by African-Americans more often than politicians/government, job/unemployment and education — in that order, the poll said.

Whites, meanwhile, said they see the economy as the top issue plaguing the country.

Despite those differences, one thing that South Carolina residents

Please see **POLL**, Page A7

S'ville developer returns deposits

Potential condo buyers receive letters about stalled hotel project

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

SUMMERVILLE — The developer of a beleaguered hotel and convention center project in the historic downtown area is returning earnest money to those who had hoped to be its first residents.

Developer Arthur Applegate of Applegate & Co. cited "lawsuits and a changing political environment" in a letter informing potential condominium buyers that their deposits held in escrow would be released. Buyers said they received the letter Thursday.

Applegate's letter said he hopes the project's clouds eventually will clear and it will move forward.

"We look forward to being able to open discussion with you regarding purchasing a unit at the Dorchester at a future date," he wrote.

Prices of the homes ranged from \$236,250 to \$648,900, according to The Residences at The Dorchester Facebook page. More than half of the

Please see **HOTEL**, Page A6

Minority teen birth rates drop

White teen birth rate still only half as high

BY MIKE STOBBER
Astoria Press

NEW YORK — Birth rates are falling dramatically for black and Hispanic teenagers, but they continue to be much higher than the birth rate for white teens.

The Hispanic teen birth rate fell by half over about eight years, and the black teen birth rate dropped nearly that much. But even with those declines, the white teen birth rate is still only half as high, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

"Despite this historic progress, profound disparities remain," said Bill Albert, chief program officer for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

Please see **TEENS**, Page A6



Poll
Should The Citadel take down the Confederate flag? Go to **postandcourier.com/polls** to vote.

Clyburn's flag fight: 'I will not let this rest'

Dems' push against Confederate banner at Citadel fails

BY EMMA DUMAIN
edumain@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans are snubbing Democratic pressure on The Citadel to take down the Confederate flag, but U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn isn't giving up.

"I will not let this rest," the South Carolina Democrat leading the effort said Thursday.

Clyburn's comments came after the House Armed Services Committee voted against an amendment to the pending defense bill that would ban Reserve Officers' Training Corps fund-

ing for any military university that displays the Confederate flag.

The only school known so far to fall into that category is The Citadel, where the Board of Visitors voted to remove the rebel flag last

Please see **RA6**, Page A7



U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn

Inside

BUSINESS

China Eastern Airlines to buy 15 787 Dreamliners from Boeing. **B1**

STATE

House members work to delay decision on refugee registry bill. **A4**

LOCAL

James Island Town Council eyes new tax on restaurant food. **A4**

NATION

Tracking the flow of guns used in crime is inexact science. **A9**



Clear. High 89. Low 65. Complete 5-day forecast. **B10**

Bridge B9 Crowds B8, B7 Movies B7
Business B1 Dear Abby B7 Obituaries B4
Classified B1 Editorials A12 Sports C1
Comics B5-9 Local A2 Television B6

Charleston Deals Today

Charleston Photo Booth
Discounted photo booth rentals from Charleston Photo Booth. See **A2**

SPORTS

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The Greenville News

FRIDAY,
APRIL 29, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY SOUTH CAROLINA AMONG MOST DANGEROUS STATES FOR DUI PAGE 1B

Confederate flag at Citadel becomes an issue

TIM SMITH
TCSMITH@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

COLUMBIA - State Republican leaders say they have no wish to change the state law aimed at protecting memorials just because the flying of the Confederate flag at a Citadel chapel has prompted debate in Congress.

The issue surfaced Thursday during debate before the U.S. House Armed Services Committee as members took up the National Defense Authorization Act for 2017.

U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, the panel's ranking Democrat, proposed an amendment that would prohibit funding for Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs at an institution that flies the Confederate flag, a measure aimed at The Citadel, which flies the flag at its

Summerall Chapel, the gift of an alumnus.

The Citadel's Board of Visitors last summer voted 9-3 to remove the Naval Jack through amendment to the Heritage Act. State Attorney General Alan Wilson issued an opinion the year before that the flag was protected by the Heritage Act.

That 2000 law protects all monuments, memorials or street and building names from any change absent a vote of two-thirds of the Legislature. It was used last year to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds, a lowering prompted by the murders of eight parishioners of a black Charleston church and their minister, Sen. Clementa Pinckney, by a white gun-

man. Thursday, Smith's effort failed but U.S. Rep. James Clyburn of Columbia, assistant House minority leader, said he will not let the issue die.

"I am greatly disappointed that a majority of Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee have voted to keep the Confederate battle flag flying in a place of worship at The Citadel," he said afterward in a statement. "Their action nullified a bipartisan effort to remove that flag from Summerall Chapel. There is nothing reverent or unifying about that banner."

Clyburn said the flag is a symbol of "hate, repression, and resistance to the rule of law."

"It should only be displayed in a museum," he said. "Americans' tax dollars should not be directed to institutions

where it is flown, regardless of whether the decision to fly it is done under the color of state law."

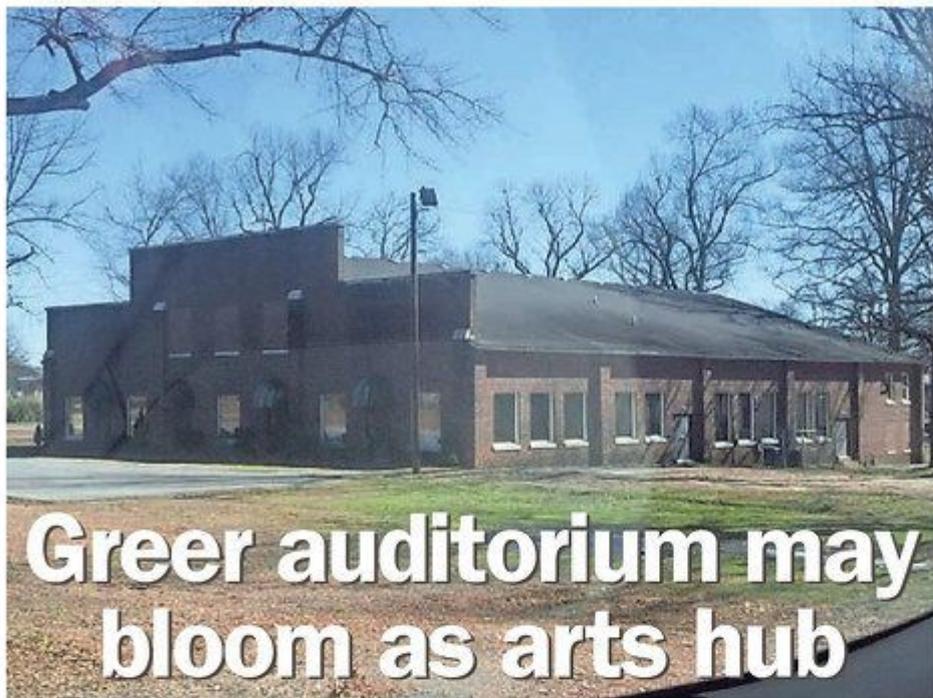
Some South Carolina GOP legislative leaders, however, said they had no desire to open up the Heritage Act.

"The Heritage Act continues to be the law of the state," House Speaker Jay Lucas told *The Greenville News* in response to the congressional debate. "And until it is changed, we plan on complying with the Heritage Act. That's really all I will say about it."

Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin said changing the Heritage Act "is a very sensitive topic."

"I didn't realize that display (at the Citadel) would have been under the Heritage Act," he said. "That makes no sense

See FLAG, Page 5A

Rep. James
ClyburnGreer auditorium may
bloom as arts hub

CITY OF GREER

Greer City Auditorium was used by the International Cathedral of Prayer for more than 10 years, until the church fell into two years' default of insurance payments.

City hoping renovation will serve as first stroke of a cultural masterpiece

The city of Greer is embarking to create an arts district with up to \$100,000 in renovations to the old Greer City Auditorium, a building deeded to the city in 1983 and rented for years by a since-closed church.

Within a month four to seven small studios are set to be rented, cheaply, to artists approved by city officials, and the theater seating up to 299 will eventually stage plays and performances, if City Council approves later phases of work as expected.

insurance payments.

Others lobbied the city for use of the building since that time, but as officials weighed possibilities for implementing residents' desires in the community master plan adopted last year, they saw opportunity.

It's exactly the kind of use the Trade Street Neighborhood Association sought when group president and local

Gov. Haley
condemns
transfer of
prisoners
from GitmoMARY ORNDORFF TROYAN
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

WASHINGTON - Relocating terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. would create a new domestic target for terrorists and probably wouldn't save taxpayer dollars, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley told Congress Thursday.

President Obama for years has wanted to close the military prison in Cuba and move those detainees to the U.S. The U.S. Naval Consolidated Brig in Charleston is one of the sites under consideration, over objections from Haley and other South Carolina officials.

Haley told members of the homeland security subcommittee on oversight and management efficiency that Obama's goal — to eliminate Guantanamo Bay as a propaganda tool for terrorists — is futile.

"This line of thinking is giving these terrorists too much credit and too much validity," she said. "Terrorists do not need a jail to hate us. They hate us on their own."

Current law prevents Obama from moving the detainees to U.S. soil. But since his first presidential campaign, Obama has argued that the facility's controversial past and the murky legal status of some detainees damage the United States' reputation.

In February, he released a plan that said 13 unnamed sites in the U.S. were under consideration.

Gov. Nikki
Haley



Rams take Cal's Jared Goff with first overall pick; Eagles take Wentz second.

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YESTERDAY: HI 88 LO 68 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) TRACE
FORECAST, DC

The State

RICHLAND PENNY TAX BATTLE

Next steps will come at taxpayers' expense

BY SARAH ELLES
elles@thestate.com

It could cost Richland County taxpayers millions if county leaders follow the state's demands to overhaul the accounting structure of the county's transportation penny sales tax, at least one County Council member says.

Meanwhile, county leaders continue to question the state Department of Revenue's authority to demand the changes it has and to withhold the county's penny tax revenue, which the revenue department said this week it now will do.

And whatever the county does next will cost taxpayers money.

County Council could consider seeking a declaratory judgment from a court saying DOR can't do what it's doing to the county, council Chairman Torrey Rush said Thursday. Not all council members, however, are ready to take that step.

"We've got to come to a resolution very quickly ... and not have this shadow cast over this program," Rush said.

SEE PENNY TAX, 7A

EXCLUSIVE

Fort to train 2,000 more soldiers a year



Drill Sergeant David Demass describes the wall at Victory Tower to new soldiers at Fort Jackson. The fort will receive an additional battalion, raising the annual number of soldiers receiving basic training to 46,000 in 2018.

New training battalion will boost Army base's economic impact

BY JEFF WILKINSON
wilkinson@thestate.com

Fort Jackson will receive another training battalion in October 2017, according to post commanders, a move that would boost the post's local economic impact and increase its value to the Army in the face of expected budget cuts.

The battalion — consisting of about 500 additional soldiers during each 10-week basic training cycle — will bring with it 210 jobs from drill sergeants to support personnel. It will also swell the number of soldiers trained annually at the nation's largest military training base to 46,000 in 2018 from 44,000 this year, according to Lt. Col. James Allen, the

fort's director of operations. The new jobs and additional 2,000 soldiers per year is good news for Columbia's economy. The families of those new soldiers will join 5,000 or so other family members who attend weekly, two-day family day activities and graduation ceremonies at the fort, filling nearby

SEE FORT JACKSON, 7A

\$2 BILLION
Annual economic impact in the Midlands

44,000
Soldiers to receive basic training in 2016



NORTHEAST RICHLAND TRADITION
SPARKLEBERRY FAIR STARTS TODAY

The 21st Sparkleberry Country Fair starts today. See details in Go Columbia on 12C and an editorial thanking the fair's volunteers on 2C.

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Darlington County School District

Reading camp receives \$70,000 grant

Program to partner with Coker College and YMCA of the Upper Pee Dee

From staff reports

DARLINGTON — Darlington County School District's summer reading camp for students reading below grade level will expand significantly this year, thanks to a \$70,000 Summer Reading Camp Community Partnership Grant from the S.C. Department of Education.

As the grant's name suggests, the district will partner with the YMCA of the Upper Pee Dee and Coker College to provide more instructional time and extracurricular activities for students, as well as professional development for educators.

The summer reading camp, this year following the Darlington County Library System's

theme of "Ready, Set, Read," will be hosted at Thornwell School for the Arts and provide substantial instructional time for young students reading below grade level at the end of the school year.

"I am very excited about the increased literacy opportunities this grant will create," said Molly Spearman, State Super-

intendent of Education. "This is one way we're working to stop summer reading loss and provide much-needed help to students. It will be a great way to assist them over the summer with their reading and ensure they hit the ground running when school starts in August."

Darlington County School District's (DCSD) Title I/Federal

Programs in the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment applied for the grant. The office expects approximately 120 students to attend the summer reading camp.

"This is year three of the summer reading camp, and we have seen all of our kindergarten

See **READING**, Page 3A

Flores begins role as GSSM's new president

From staff reports

Dr. Hector E. Flores began his term as the new president of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM) on April 15.

GSSM faculty, staff and students welcomed Flores with a cookout on April 18 where they got to know their new leader, including his love of books and Latin music.

"I'm incredibly excited to begin this new chapter at the Governor's School," said Flores. "This school is truly changing the future of education in South Carolina."

During the cookout, Flores engaged students, learned about their interests, and spent time getting to know them, as well as faculty. The cookout culminated in an impromptu dance lesson during which Flores taught the students how to salsa.

Dean of Graduate Studies at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) since 2011, Flores holds master's and PhD degrees in biology from Yale University and a master's degree from the University of Puerto Rico. He earned his bachelor's from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Lima, Peru.

Before RIT, Flores served as Professor at the Universidad Nacional

See **FLORES**, Page 3A

PINWHEELS PLANTED FOR PREVENTION



PHOTOS BY ARIE ARVIDSON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Pinwheels have been planted throughout the city of Hartsville in its public parks in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Several organizations including the Hartsville Police Department, Darlington County Department of Social Services, the Durant Children's Center and others gathered at Pride Park on Thursday to plant of pinwheels. The pinwheels are turning toward a safer world for children.



Ronald Krein, county director of Darlington County DSS, plants a pinwheel in honor of Child Abuse Awareness Month.



Robin Griggs with the Durant Children's Center explained the purpose of the pinwheels and Child Abuse Awareness. She said the whimsical toy represents a care-free life and how we hope a child's life will be. Standing next to her are Casey Copeland and Ron Krein.



INDEX

122nd Year - 12 pages

Happenings	2A
Obituaries	3A
Faith	4A
Sports	6A

Society Hill man charged in March hit-and-run death



LOCAL AUTHOR TO BE FEATURED IN DAY OF PRAYER

FAITH & FAMILY, D1



RAMS KICK OFF NFL DRAFT WITH GOFF AT NO. 1

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Complete forecast, B10

CAMPAIGN 2016



Boehner: Cruz is 'Lucifer in the flesh'

Former House Speaker John Boehner unloaded on Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz during a talk to college students, calling the Texas senator "Lucifer in the flesh." A4

SPORTS



Busy day in preps

The Region II-4A track and field meet gets underway, while the playoffs continue for area baseball and softball teams. B1

NATION & WORLD



Tracking guns is an inexact science

The flow of guns from one person to another, and from states with loose gun laws to those with strict ones, has long flummoxed

CAMPAIGN 2016 SANDERS SUPPORTERS

Angry over superdelegates

By Lisa Lerer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nancy Schumacher says she just wanted to do her civic duty, and so she heeded the call to become a superdelegate for Hillary Clinton. But in the year of the angry voter, not even an administrative assistant from Elk River, Minnesota, can escape the outrage.

"Some of the (phone and email) messages called me names. Some of them called Hillary names. And others said

I was a stupid bitch and something bad will happen to me," said Schumacher, a Democratic committee member. "It's kind of hard to take sometimes."

Bernie Sanders defied expectations to turn his long-shot presidential bid into a real threat for the Democratic nomination. Now, as his path to the White House becomes all-but-impossible, some of his supporters are lashing out at a system they believe was engineered against them from the start.

SEE CAMPAIGN, A6



Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, accompanied by former President Bill Clinton, walks to the stage at her presidential primary election night rally Tuesday in Philadelphia.

MATT ROURKE/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHANCE FOR A BETTER LIFE



Amber Wilds, 25, of Boiling Springs, right, participates in a GED class at the Spartanburg County Jail. The program is a partnership between the jail and Spartanburg County Adult Education. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

Inmates embrace GED program

By Allison M. Roberts
allison.roberts@shj.com

Female inmates at the



REFUGEES IN SC

Dozens plead with House to block bill

Legislation would require them to register

By Seanna Adcox
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Opponents of legislation that requires refugees in South Carolina to register and holds liable those who help them resettle asked a House panel Thursday to block the bill.

Ministers, volunteers and college students said the bill discourages churches from their Christian mission of helping people while targeting people who are fleeing persecution and terrorism in their home country.

Noor Amiri told the panel he'd be dead if not for the federal refugee program. The Kabul, Afghanistan, native worked alongside U.S. Army soldiers for six years as their interpreter before coming to South Carolina in 2014.

"Every day I looked at my wife and son and remembered the Taliban wants me dead," said Amiri, 28, who first applied for protection in 2012. "Refugees

the Sumter ITEM

REMINDER

Sumter Police will collect unwanted pills and patches A2

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Haircuts for a cause



KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Founder and CEO of Sport Clips Haircuts, Gordon Logan, second from left, jokes with a group of his classmates from Edmunds High School class of 1964 before the opening of Logan's 1,500th store in Sumter on Thursday. The company donated \$15,000 to Sumter Toys for Tots.

Sport Clips founder shows generosity in hometown

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

Christmas in April? No, but a lot of children in Sumter, Clarendon and Lee counties will have their Christmases brightened as Sport Clips Haircuts founder and CEO Gordon Logan presented a \$15,000 donation to the local chapter of Toys for Tots. Logan presented the donation Thursday to mark the opening of Sport Clips' 1,500th franchise location, which happens to be in Sumter, his hometown. The contribution will enable Marine Detachment 1292 to put smiles on the faces of approximately

3,000 children in the tri-county area, a Sport Clips news release said. Logan, and his wife, Bettye, along with local franchisees Zach and Sharon Payer, presented the check to Harvey Senter, Toys for Tots regional coordinator, before a gathering of local dignitaries and guests at the recently opened Sumter Sport Clips, 2621 Broad St. Gordon Logan said he wants to tie in to the local community, and Toys for Tots is a natural fit for his charitable giving. "Two of our favorite causes are veterans and kids," he said. "I am happy to make the donation." Logan and his wife have also been

active in supporting the St. Baldrick's Foundation, which raises money to combat childhood cancer. Gordon Logan is a 1964 graduate of Edmunds High School and earned an engineering degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I flew C-130s for the Air Force for a while, and they sent me to Texas," he said. Logan said it was great to be back in Sumter and to see old friends. "It's a homecoming to the place where family and friends taught me about life, hard work and planted the

SEE LOGAN, PAGE A5

Caterpillar closure rumors unfounded

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

Reports of Caterpillar planning to close its Sumter plant are apparently unfounded, according to information provided to *The Sumter Item* on Thursday. Rachel A. Potts, director

of U.S. and corporate media relations for Caterpillar, emailed *The Sumter Item* on Thursday evening and said, "The Sumter plant is not included in (Thursday's) announcements." Thursday's announcements said that as part of its global restructuring ef-

forts, it has notified workers at five facilities of coming closures and one planned building demolition. The closures will result in a reduction of about 820 positions, the announcement said. Facilities in Jacksonville,

Florida; Oxford, Mississippi; and Morgantown, North Carolina, will be closed, while a building at the Moxville, Illinois, campus will be demolished. The company also said it will consolidate two facilities

SEE RUMORS, PAGE A5

Local residents named to university boards

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

ist at Tuomey Pain Treatment Center in Sumter. Warrick is a 1996 graduate

of Charleston Board of Trustees. Sumter resident S. Anne Walker was

Tuomey earns 'C' on safety report

Clarendon earns 'B'; both scores same as last year

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com

The Leapfrog Group announced its Spring 2016 Hospital Safety Scores on Monday, assigning letter grades to more than 2,500 U.S. hospitals, by assessing medical errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

Palmetto Health Tuomey received a C grade, the same as Fall 2015, but a drop from a B in Spring 2015. Clarendon Memorial Hospital in Manning maintained a B grade, which it has received since Spring 2015.

"We have continuously improved our quality grade from the Leapfrog Group," said Paul Schumacher, acting CEO/COO for Clarendon Health System, the parent organization for Clarendon Memorial Hospital. "This is our second B in a row from them, and it represents a strong commitment from our entire team of healthcare professionals."

Palmetto Health Tuomey Physician Executive Dr. Gene Dickerson said he was disappointed by the score.

"We have been striving to improve our score not just to a B but to an A," he said.

He said the Palmetto staff has been working year-round on projects to improve patient care and outcomes.

"We look at areas where we have room for improvement and how we can make those things better," he said.

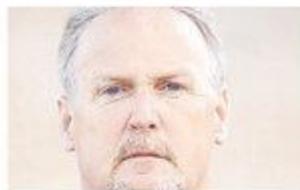
Dickerson also pointed out that much of the data used for the scores are from 2014 or the first half of 2015 and do not reflect current conditions at Palmetto Health Tuomey.

Alongside the update, Leapfrog contracted with Johns Hopkins Medicine's Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality on a report estimating the number of avoidable deaths at hospitals in each grade level. The analysis found that despite considerable improvement in the safety of hospital care since the score's launch in 2012, avoidable deaths remain high. Findings point to a 9

STATE
With the battle
flag gone, have
S.C. race relations
improved? 5A



SPORTS
Bluffton AD Dave
Adams leaving to
coach football at
HH Prep 1B



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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON

Sunny
84°/67° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Shuttle service may start next year

Recommendations in the
works for potential service
from bridge to Sea Pines
Circle and Coligny Beach area

Pilot program could start with
employees who work on the
island

If successful, service could
spread to residents, visitors

BY LUCAS HIGH
lhigh@islandpacket.com

In an effort to reduce traffic
around Sea Pines Circle, Hilton
Head Island officials are
working on plans for a new
trolley service that would
shuttle riders around the circle
and Coligny Beach area.

The first passengers of the
proposed shuttle service could
be employees of island businesses.

In a recent meeting, members
of the town's Circle to Circle
Committee discussed the
possibility of rolling out the
service with a pilot program
focused on employees of the
many shops, restaurants and
hotels on the island's South
End.

"We would like to start with
employee parking," committee
member Tom Sharp said of
the pilot program.

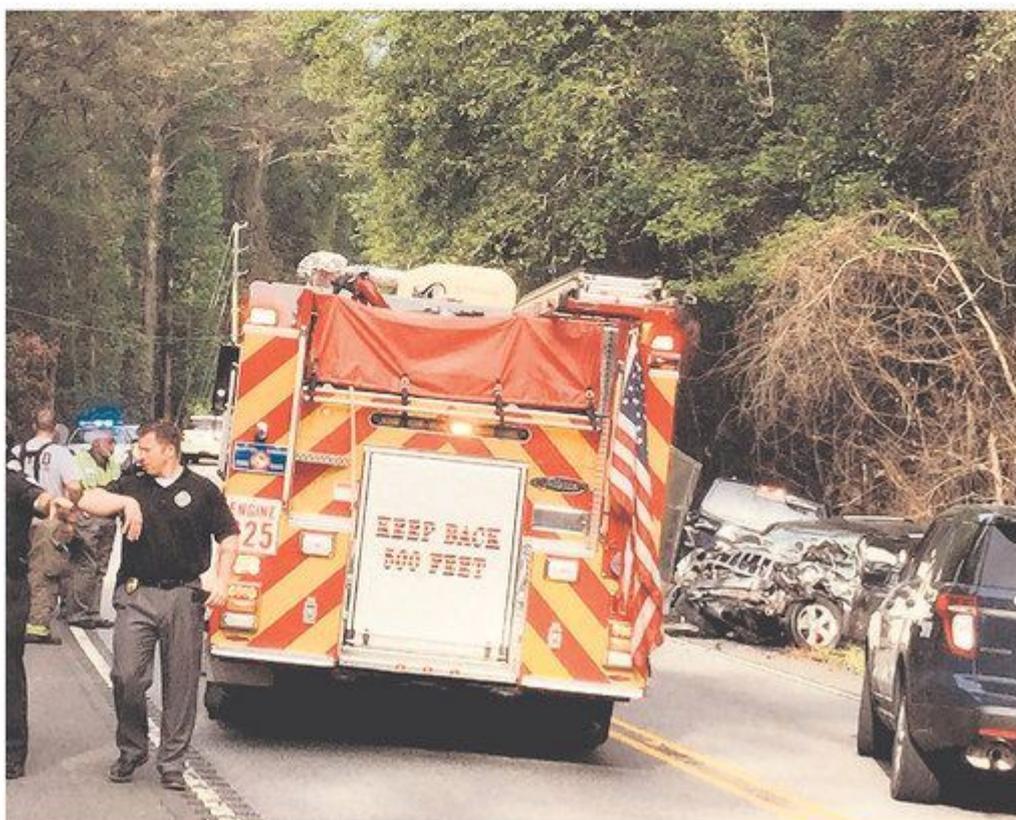
This would help clear the
roadways and parking lots for
visitors, while giving employees
a dependable, centralized
area to park before heading to
work.

Committee member Jack
Daly said South End employees
are currently "encouraged to
park off-site," often in public
beach lots.

There was consensus
among committee members
that if a shuttle system were to
work, there must be buy-in
from local businesses and
their employees.

Committee member Carlton
Dallas said he is confident the
trolley will "have the support
of the commercial (operations
and resorts)."

Tom Lennox, also a member
of the Circle to Circle
Committee, added, "You have
to have the full support of the
business community and an
incentive for employees to
take advantage of (a shuttle).
If we don't have the support of
the business owners, it won't
work."



JOGH MITELMAN jmitelman@islandpacket.com

A wreck at Barton's Run in greater Bluffton blocked traffic along May River Road near Buckwalter Parkway on April 20.

S.C. 46 AND S.C. 170

Crashes spike along commuter route

Crashes along some portions of the Savannah-to-Bluffton
commute have almost doubled over a 5-year period

Heather Kerwick lost her life near a dangerous curve on May River
Road on April 20

The average Beaufort County resident has a more than 20-minute
commute

BY WADE LIVINGSTON
wrlivingston@islandpacket.com

At around 10 a.m., Reggie
Holland started to worry.
His girlfriend, Heather
Kerwick, hadn't answered his
call or called him back. And
Kerwick's roommate had called
Holland to let him know she
hadn't showed up for work in
Savannah.

He started calling area hospi-

tal morning commute from Bluffton
to Savannah.
Kerwick's vehicle collided
head-on with another vehicle on
May River Road — a portion of
S.C. 46. That road and S.C. 170
are two routes Bluffton commuters
might take to travel to jobs
in parts of Jasper County or
Savannah. And during the past
four years, the number of accidents
on those roads has spiked.

Last year, there were 126 reported
collisions on the roughly
11-mile stretch of S.C. 46 that

In 2015, there were 110 collisions
on the almost-five-mile
span of S.C. 170 (between S.C.
46 to the south and U.S. 278 to
the north). Three years earlier,
there were just 63.

From 2012 until March 25 of
this year, there have been 11 fatal
collisions on those roads and on
S.C. 315 and U.S. 17 in Jasper
County — a large portion of the
Bluffton-to-Savannah commute.

The peak time for crashes,
according to Lance Cpl. Matthew
Southern of the S.C. Highway
Patrol, is from 7 to 9 a.m.,
and 4 to 6 p.m. — the morning
and evening commute hours.

"If there's more cars on the
road, there's going to be more
accidents," said Capt. Bob
Bromage of the Beaufort County
Sheriff's Office. Bluffton's
growth, Bromage said
Wednesday, has increased the
numbers of motorists on county

126

Number of reported collisions in
2015 on the roughly 11-mile stretch
of S.C. 46 that runs through
Beaufort County, according to
accident data provided by the
S.C. Highway Patrol

88

Number of reported collisions in
2012 along the same route

110

Number of reported 110 collisions
on the almost-five-mile span of
S.C. 170 (between S.C. 46 to the
south and U.S. 278 to the north)

63

Number of reported collisions in
2012 along the same route

tween S.C. 46 and U.S. 278) from
2012 to 2015. The estimated average
daily traffic was 11,400 cars
in 2012 and 10,500 in 2015.

But the same data show more
traffic on S.C. 46.

On that road — between the
county line and S.C. 170 — traffic
increased from 12,900 to 14,100
cars per day from 2012 to 2015.



Who was No. 1 in NFL Draft?

Sports 1B

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

No answer? Chastain silent on texting allegations

By **DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ**
and **MATTHEW HENSLEY**
ddominguez@indexjournal.com
mhensley@indexjournal.com

Ricky Chastain's name hangs over thousands of gray message bubbles in PDF files that appear to show

text messages, many of them explicit, exchanged between the Laurens County sheriff and a woman who is not his wife.

The 444 pages of text messages, which contained nude photos of the woman, did not indicate Chastain had a physical relationship with the

woman, who the Index-Journal is not yet naming, and the woman denied having sex with Chastain. Time stamps indicated hundreds of the messages were sent on weekdays during normal business hours. News of these texts, which were released to several media outlets and

bloggers earlier this week, is making its way across social media in the Lakelands and beyond, but the four-term sheriff has yet to speak publicly about these messages.

Chastain was not in his office either time a reporter visited Thursday and he did not respond to mes-

sages seeking comment left Wednesday and Thursday on his cellphone and office phone, or to an email sent about 11 a.m. Wednesday. No one answered his home phone Thursday afternoon. As of Thursday night, no

See **CHASTAIN**, page 4A

Bluegrass, Blue Jeans & B B Q



The Trey Ward Band, featuring Ward on guitar, Sarah Caldwell on banjo, Glenn Pace on bass and Blake Young on mandolin, played bluegrass and country music at Thursday's ninth annual Bluegrass, Blue Jeans & BBQ fundraising event for the Greenwood Community Theatre. Ward said the band's love for barbecue is only matched by its love for the theater, and it keeps playing each year to help fund GCT. Stephen Gilbert, GCT executive director, said he was honored to host the first public event at the Uptown Market and thanked the city for its support.

■ **MCCORMICK**

Doggett chosen to lead district

By **ARIEL GILREATH**
agilreath@indexjournal.com

MCCORMICK — McCormick County School District board members approved Don Doggett as the district's superintendent during a called budget workshop meeting Thursday evening.

Doggett was one of three finalists for the superintendent position, and board members approved offering him the position early last week but didn't release his name until the contract was finalized Thursday night.



DON DOGGETT

See **DOGGETT**, page 4A

■ **CPW**

Greenwood Promise gets \$250K pledge

By **MATTHEW HENSLEY**
mhensley@indexjournal.com

Greenwood Commission of Public Works has become the latest to support to The Greenwood Promise, pledging \$250,000 to the initiative during the next five years.

The three-member board voted unanimously Thursday to approve the ordinance, which gives \$50,000 to The



KID'S CARNIVAL

Saturday, April 30
11:00 AM
with Cowboy Larry Hudson!

There will be special prizes, free lunch, and games, games, games!

BIG DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 1
10:30 AM

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Morning News

FRIDAY APRIL 29, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER
Partly sunny.
High 91, low 62.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnnews.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Florence School District 1 Principals want more teachers, coordinators

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Trustees of Florence County School District 1 heard budget requests Thursday from principals, department heads and others.

The requests were presented to the board of trustees by Superintendent Randy Bridges.

The board met Thursday in a special budget meeting. Bridges said he had asked the elementary and secondary principals to meet and discuss their needs. Those needs include additional teachers to reduce class size, funding for capital improvements in maintenance and technology, a curriculum/testing coordinator position for each site, and renewable district technology funds.

Bridges said some principals would like to see their school's curriculum coordinators become assistant principals and be compensated for it.

"In their eyes, sometimes the curriculum coordinator's responsibilities spill over into assistant-principal responsibilities, but these individuals aren't compensated for that," Bridges said.

The budget request calls for moving eight curriculum coordinators to be assistant principals. The principals would like to see each school have both an assistant principal and curriculum coordinator.

See **BOARD**, Page 4A

HOPEHEALTH



JOE PERRY/MORNING NEWS

Deena Hilton, chief operations officer for HopeHealth, holds the scissors Thursday at a ribbon-cutting for the new downtown facility. To her left is Carl Humphries, CEO of HopeHealth, Lathran Woodard, CEO of the S.C. Primary Care Association, Florence mayor Stephen Wukela, Dr. Calvin Robinson, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church and Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce President Mike Miller. To Hilton's right is Amber Turner, who heads HopeHealth's board of directors, Sen. Hugh Leatherman and Rep. Terry Alexander.

Ribbon cut for new location

BY JOE PERRY
Morning News
jperry@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — What was formerly a junkyard is now celebrated as an example of what can happen when local, state and federal stakeholders work together to bring about

positive change.

The new HopeHealth facility at 360 North Irby Street hosted a late Thursday afternoon ribbon-cutting with several speakers who sought to pay tribute to the hard work and dedicated efforts of elected officials and the health care and business community in

transforming the former Bush Recycling grounds into a multifaceted, 47,889-square-foot building.

HopeHealth's facility houses eight medical suites, a laboratory, radiology, pediatrics department, pharmacy and administrative offices. A cafe is scheduled to open in this

spring, and a second phase of construction will see an additional 40,000 square feet with supplemented services.

Darryl Bridges, the outgoing chairman of HopeHealth's board of directors, noted that at the outset of his tenure in

See **HOPEHEALTH**, Page 4A



Volunteers donate time to make Lake City event happen

An army of 300 in bright blue helps visitors

BY JESSICA IMBIBO
Morning News
jimbib@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — At the ArtFields festival and art competition in Lake City, beautiful works of art are a common sight, almost as common as the bright-



JESSICA IMBIBO/MORNING NEWS



Artist Spotlight

Martha Worthy

BY DIANNE POSTON OWENS
Lake City News & Post
downs@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — Martha Worthy's entry into the 2016 ArtFields in Lake City represents two "firsts" for the artist.

Typically, Worthy paints birds, flora and fauna, taking her cues from nature. She paints them as individual birds: an owl, a kestrel, a woodpecker.

This time, the artist created a collage of

Camlin Moore

Cell: [803-206-8236](tel:803-206-8236)

Office: [803-734-8044](tel:803-734-8044)