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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, August 29, 2016

SC Front Pages – Mon day, August 29, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Monday, August 23, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Mug shot worries continue despite law

Bill's sponsor says firms uncooperative when asked to delete info on those found innocent

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mpt@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — A new mug shot law that was supposed to bring relief to those who have been arrested and cleared of wrongdoing appears to need more work, the bill's

sponsor said. People who have been arrested and either had their charges dismissed or were found innocent can ask private mug shot publishing companies, such as www.mugshots.com, to remove any photos and information from their website within 30 days of re-

ceiving notice. If the company does not remove the information, a person has the ability to sue.

But Sen. Paul Thurmond, R-Charleston, said companies either are making it difficult to be served with legal documentation or refusing to comply outright.

"We're finding that companies will not accept service," he said. "If they don't accept service then you can't get that time-clock started. That has been

a wrinkle and some people that I have heard from are pretty frustrated."

Online mug publishing companies www.mugshots.com and www.find-mugshots.com did not respond to requests for comment.

Thurmond said most of these companies that seek to profit from crime and mug publication are not based in South Carolina, and some are located in other countries.

Thurmond said the intent of the bill was to help those cleared in a crime

continue to lead productive lives.

"Let's say you're going into a job interview," he said. "They'll probably search for background about you, what you've done or what you've accomplished. And all of a sudden they see you've been previously arrested for this or that. For a lot of people that's a guaranteed no-call back. It doesn't matter that it didn't result in a conviction."

Please see **MUGSHOTS**, Page A4

Local girl recovers from tick paralysis

Symptoms of rare disorder stumped 4-year-old's parents, doctors



Four-year-old Ari Huckels paints at her Johns Island home Monday. Ari has recovered from "tick paralysis," a disorder that would not let her hold a paintbrush and caused her to have difficulty walking.

BY LAUREN SAUSSER
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To hear 4-year-old Ari Huckels tell it, her trip to the hospital this summer sounds more like a sleepover than a medical emergency. "I got to play Barbies in there," she said. "My worst part is when I got that straw in my hand."

By "straw" she means IV. Her mom explained

that the needle was used to deliver medicine to her bloodstream, almost like a straw.

Several weeks after the ordeal, Ari still remembers how much it hurt.

"I hate the IV," she said.

What she doesn't remember so clearly — and her parents can't forget — is the peanut-sized tick that had embedded itself in Ari's scalp, nearly paralyzing her. In late July, following a trip to Edisto, Ari developed a rare disorder

called "tick paralysis," which, if untreated, may cause respiratory failure.

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, "Children with tick paralysis develop an unsteady gait followed several days later by weakness in the lower legs. This weakness gradually moves up to involve the upper limbs."

Please see **TICKS**, Page A4

County benefit sparks lawsuit

Groups aim to recover Dorch. taxpayer funds

BY BRENDA RINDGE
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SUMMERVILLE — Dorchester County Council and as many as 100 employees are being sued over a unique wrinkle in the county's benefits program.

The lawsuit alleges that three council members — Chairman David Chinis, George Bailey and Willie Davis — and up to 100 other public officials, appointees or employees received illegal payments after they opted out of the county's health and dental benefits plan.

Since 1987, the county has deposited their insurance premiums — about \$350 per month, according to the lawsuit — into an annuity for county employees and officials who chose not to participate. Some employees received reimbursements for separate insurance, according to the lawsuit.

In all, the county's practice amounted to more than \$300,000 annually in taxpayer money.

Please see **BENEFITS**, Page A4

Event to help raise overdose awareness

Grief support group spreading message

BY MELISSA BOUGHTON
mboughton@postandcourier.com

A local group will host an event at Riverfront Park this week to bring awareness to overdoses in the Lowcountry.

The Charleston chapter of Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing, or GRASP, had its first meeting in December and now has about 30 members. It was created to help families and friends who have lost a loved one to a drug or alcohol overdose.

On Wednesday, GRASP members are hosting an event for International Overdose Awareness Day that is open to the public and will include singing, a lighting of candles and a guest speaker to address addiction.

Members of the group will also plant two trees in the North Charleston park in memory of the loved ones they have lost.

Please see **OVERDOSE**, Page A4

Inside



BUSINESS

Aerospace industry cruising; workforce concerns remain. **D1**

LOCAL

Not all ideas for Sullivan's sign upgrade are welcome. **A3**

HEALTH

Three ways to keep your memory fresh. **B1**

Could Clinton rescue Obamacare?

Winning support for struggling program might be tough task

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the hourglass running out for his administration, President Barack Obama's health care law is struggling in many parts of the country. Double-digit premium increases and exits by big-name insurers have caused some to wonder whether Obamacare will go down as a failed experiment.

If Democrat Hillary Clinton wins the White House, expect her to mount a rescue effort. But how

much Clinton could do depends on finding willing partners in Congress and among Republican governors, a real political challenge.

"There are turbulent waters," said Kathleen Sebelius, Obama's first secretary of Health and Human Services. "But do I see this as a death knell? No."

Next year's health insurance sign-up season starts a week before the Nov. 8 election, and the previews have been brutal. Premiums are expected to go up sharply in many insurance marketplaces, which offer subsidized private coverage to people lacking access to job-based

plans. At the same time, retrenchment by insurers that have lost hundreds of millions of dollars means that more areas will become one-insurer competition.

The consulting firm Avalere Health projects that seven states will only have one insurer in each of their marketplace regions next year. Administration officials say insurers set prices too low in a bid to gain market share, and the correction is leading to sticker shock.

Insurers blame the problems on sicker-than-expected customers, disappointing enrollment and a premium stabilization system that failed to work as advertised.

Please see **CLINTON**, Page A4

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Charleston Deals Today Elite Dance International
Single and double dance classes. See A2

Change of storms. High 88. Low 74. Complete 5-day forecast. **B8**

USC FOOTBALL

Muschamp restocking USC's recruiting cupboard, but what emptied it? **1B**

**CLEMSON FOOTBALL**

This could be the year for Clemson cornerback Mark Fields, **1B**



MONDAY AUGUST 29 2016

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY; T-STORM CHANCE 30-92; LO 72 YESTERDAY: 30-96; LO 75 PRECIP. (as of 5 pm.) 0" FORECAST, 8C

The State



Steve Spurrier announces his resignation as USC head football coach in 2015.

MATT WALSH mwalsh@thestate.com

USC FOOTBALL | STEVE SPURRIER

FAITH A CONSTANT THEME IN NEW BOOK



BY JOSH KENDALL
jkendall@thestate.com

If the 2015 UCF game was the one that made Steve Spurrier decide his college coaching career was coming to an end, the LSU game two weeks later was the one that made him realize he'd made the right decision.

In what would turn out to be the final game of Spurrier's 26-year coaching career, he was unsettled that afternoon by how nice everyone in Baton Rouge was to him before kick-off, and when he went into the Gamecocks locker room to get dressed for the game, he lamented that fact to his assistant coaches.

"When I was coaching at Florida and we came to LSU every other year, they would be shooting birds at us, throwing stuff at the bus and yelling, 'Arrogant, cocky Spurrier, run up the



Then-USC coach Steve Spurrier, center, celebrates a field goal at Williams-Brice Stadium.

C. ALLIKA BERRY cberry@thestate.com

score!" Spurrier told his coaches. "And now they are really nice to us because they know they are going to kick our (behind) today."

The Tigers did, 45-24, and three days later, Spurrier resigned as South Carolina's winningest football coach of all-time. That story comes from

Spurrier's autobiography "Head Ball Coach: My Life in Football," a collaboration with author Buddy Martin that will be released Tuesday.

Spurrier goes on in the book to recount how things began to go south

SEE SPURRIER, 6A

SC'S TAX AGENCY

DOR: It also collects debts

■ The S.C. Department of Revenue collected \$178 million last year for unpaid debts residents owed to another state agency or local government.

BY CASSIE COPE
cope@thestate.com

The S.C. Department of Revenue collected \$178 million last year for unpaid debts that Palmetto State residents owed to another state agency or local government.

That amount, collected through two programs, is \$17.1 million more than the agency collected in the previous fiscal year.

The two programs allow the Revenue Department to collect unpaid fines or fees owed to local governments or other state agencies, including colleges.

"Unpaid liabilities hurt any organization and leave the burden on those who do pay their fair share," said Revenue Department chief Rick Reames.

The Setoff Debt program allows the Revenue Department to offset an S.C. resident's tax refund by the amount that person owes a local government or state agency.

That program collected \$163.4 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30. That is up \$13.6 million from the year before.

The second program, called Governmental Enterprise Accounts Receivable (GEAR), allows the Revenue Department to act as a collection agency to collect a debt—putting a levy on a debtor's bank account or a lien on their house. GEAR

SEE DEBT, 2A



PALMETTO VOICES



SPORTS, 1C

FURMAN FANS MEET PLAYERS



METRO, 3A

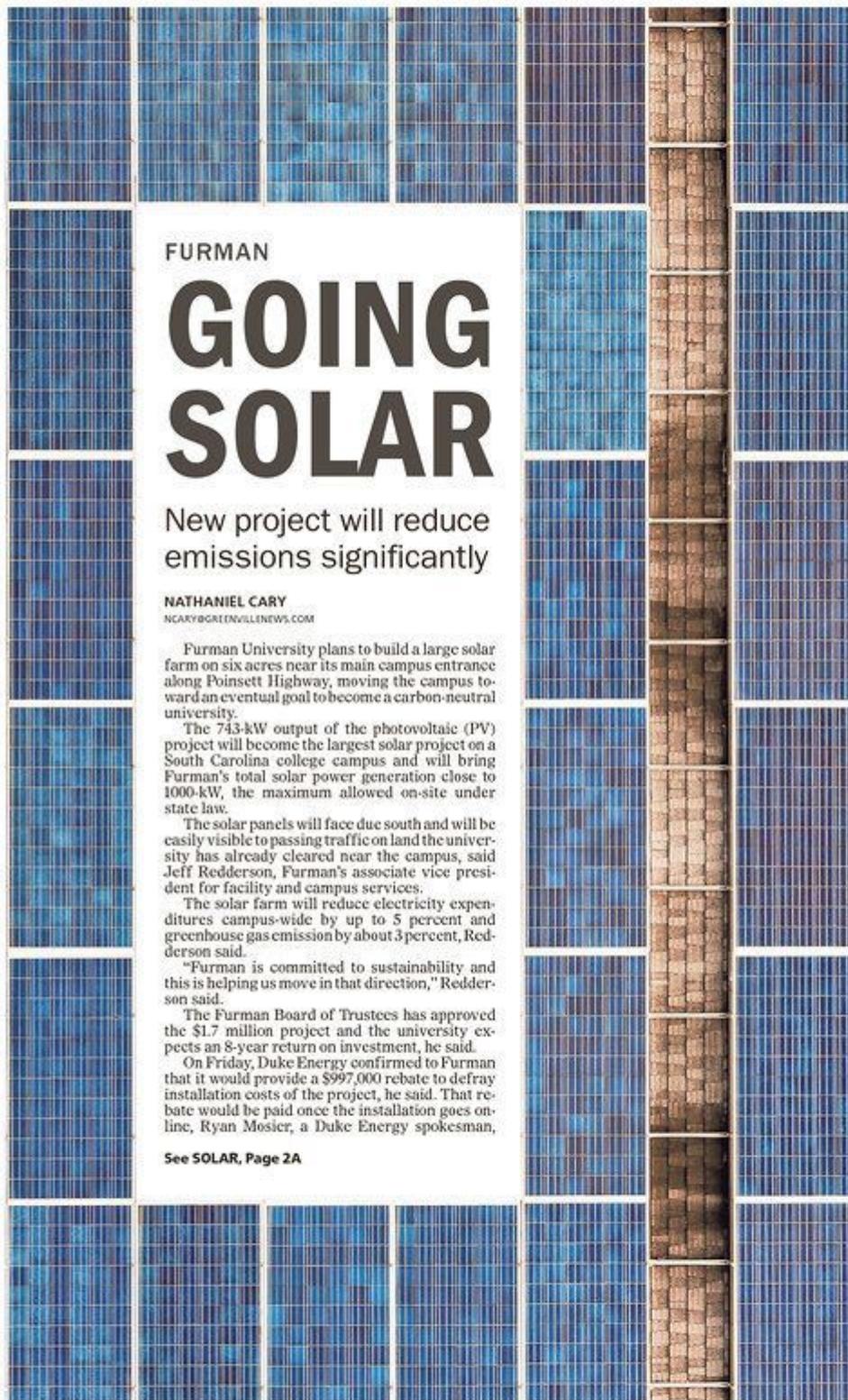
Pink Tie Guys aid breast cancer

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,
AUGUST 29, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY CHICAGO BEGINS BUILDING 'FITNESS TRACKER' TO CHECK ITS VITALS **PAGE 1B**



FURMAN

GOING SOLAR

New project will reduce emissions significantly

NATHANIEL CARY
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Furman University plans to build a large solar farm on six acres near its main campus entrance along Poinsett Highway, moving the campus toward an eventual goal to become a carbon-neutral university.

The 743-kW output of the photovoltaic (PV) project will become the largest solar project on a South Carolina college campus and will bring Furman's total solar power generation close to 1000-kW, the maximum allowed on-site under state law.

The solar panels will face due south and will be easily visible to passing traffic on land the university has already cleared near the campus, said Jeff Redderson, Furman's associate vice president for facility and campus services.

The solar farm will reduce electricity expenditures campus-wide by up to 5 percent and greenhouse gas emission by about 3 percent, Redderson said.

"Furman is committed to sustainability and this is helping us move in that direction," Redderson said.

The Furman Board of Trustees has approved the \$1.7 million project and the university expects an 8-year return on investment, he said.

On Friday, Duke Energy confirmed to Furman that it would provide a \$997,000 rebate to defray installation costs of the project, he said. That rebate would be paid once the installation goes online, Ryan Mosier, a Duke Energy spokesman,

See SOLAR, Page 2A

Senator wants DDSN moved

Says it should be placed in governor's cabinet

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA - A state Senate Democrat said he plans again to file legislation placing the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs in the governor's cabinet to increase accountability.

Sen. John Scott of Columbia, who serves on the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, told *The Greenville News* he has lost faith in the agency and believes change is needed.

"We don't want to be harsh but we do want this agency to come into compliance," he said.

Scott may find support among Republicans for the legislation, said outgoing Sen. Mike Fair, a Greenville Republican who also serves on the Medical Affairs Committee.

"That probably could happen," Fair said. "The whole matter of reform was something, at least in our time, that was started by Carroll Campbell. Republicans since then more often than not have been for continued reform, which usually makes the cabinet larger but makes the agency smaller."

Sen. Harvey Peeler, a Gaffney Republican who chairs the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, said he likes the idea.

"That's not a bad idea," he said. "I need to take a look at the specifics. But that's not a bad idea. Matter of fact, I think it's a good idea."

DDSN serves about 20,000 vulnerable adults, those with severe intellectual disabilities, autism, traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries, in a variety of settings, according to the agency. It employs more than 2,100 workers full time and another almost 9,000 are employed in the agency's provider network. The agency's current budget totals \$729 million, most of which is federal money.

Bill Danielson, chairman of the DDSN board, offered no preference for the current system or a cabinet model in a statement to *The News*.

"The Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs and the Department will abide by the General Assembly and governor," he said. "That goes without saying. There are benefits to both the cabinet model and the commission model. In either model, both the governor and the Legislature are involved in deciding the leadership."

See DDSN, Page 2A



CHURCHES WORK TO HEAL RACIAL DIVIDE

NATION, A5



NY SQUAD WINS LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, August 29, 2016



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TODAY TUE WED



88°/69° 89°/70° 90°/71°

Complete forecast, A8

IN BRIEF



Vandalism incident reported at apartment complex

The Spartanburg Police Department is investigating a vandalism incident that occurred at the Park Place Apartment complex.

Maj. Art Littlejohn of the Spartanburg Police Department said officers responded Sunday morning to 110 South Port Road, Spartanburg. They found eight vehicles, a portion of the sidewalk, and a portion of the apartment building vandalized with spray swastikpaint. The building and several vehicles were spray-painted with swastikas.

Littlejohn said more information would be released in the case on Monday morning.

—From staff reports

TIP SHEET

Tuesday

Spartanburg County Council meets a 9 a.m. at the County Administration Building, 366 N. Church Church St., Spartanburg.

Spring Fling Public Forum will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall, 145 W. Broad St., Spartanburg.

BOX OFFICE

'Don't Breathe' ousts 'Suicide Squad'

LOS ANGELES — The horror movie "Don't Breathe" has reason to let out a big sigh of relief. Audiences turned out in droves for the late summer thriller, which brought in \$26.1 million, according to studio estimates released Sunday.

ITALY EARTHQUAKE

Authorities to investigate

Italy probes whether negligence played role in quake toll

By Vanessa Gera, Frances D'emilio and Hakan Kaplan
The Associated Press

AMATRICE, Italy — Italian authorities are vowing to investigate whether negligence or fraud in adhering to building codes played a role in the high

death toll in last week's earthquake in Italy.

They also called for efforts to ensure organized crime doesn't infiltrate lucrative construction contracts to eventually rebuild much of the picturesque towns leveled in the disaster.

Meanwhile, rescue workers pressed on with the task of recovering bodies from the rubble, with hopes of finding any more survivors virtually vanished more than four full

days after the powerful quake.

Over the past two days, they found six more bodies in the rubble of Hotel Roma in Amatrice, the medieval hill town in mountainous central Italy that bore the brunt of destruction and loss of life in the powerful quake. They recovered three and by late Sunday were still working to retrieve others that were hard to reach.

It wasn't clear if those six were included in the overall 290

death toll given by authorities. The Civil Protection agency, which combines the figures it receives from different provinces affected by the quake, said the number is lower than the previous toll of 291 dead due to a correction in the numbers from the province of Rieti, where most of the victims died.

The quake that struck before dawn Wednesday also injured

SEE ITALY, A4

BARNET PARK

Spartanburg community cookout celebrates unity



Spartanburg Police Officer Kimberly Cheeks plays games with a group of children during the "Let's Unite!" community cookout sponsored by the Spartanburg County Foundation Sunday at Barnett Park. ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

By Chris Lavender
chris.lavender@shj.com

Hundreds of Spartanburg County residents enjoyed a

also provided a chance to meet candidates running for political office in November.

"It was really important for us to come out and be here

on in the world today we need to bring people from different backgrounds together."

Representatives from the Spartanburg Police

operations. It's one of two helicopters used by the Sheriff's Office.

The helicopters' uses include chasing bank rob-



Morning News

MONDAY AUGUST 29, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Patchy afternoon thunderstorms.
High 90 Low 69
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Florence

Boys & Girls Club to host Champions for Youth Tribute

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dsweارينgen@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The Boys & Girls Club of the Pee Dee Area will host its annual Champions for Youth Tribute on Tuesday.

The fundraiser recognizes people in the Greater Florence area who are important to the community's children, said Neal Zimmerman Jr., executive director of the Boys & Girls Club.

This year's honoree is Buddy Brand, a Florence City Council member and longtime member of the Boys & Girls Club board of directors.

"The biggest thing is honoring Buddy for the work that he's done for just a slew of different organizations that help kids, and to me does it in a very quiet way but a very important way," Zimmerman said.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Pee Dee area serves children age 6 to 18 with a variety of programs that focus on academic success, healthy lifestyles and character development.

Each year, the Pee Dee chapter serves just over 3,000 children at six club sites, Zimmerman said.

Money from fundraisers such as the Champions for Youth Tribute is essential to the nonprofit organization.

"Whether it's a special event like Champions or whether it's Carolina Classic (a basketball tournament hosted by the organization) or whether it's an individual gift, those dollars raised in our community stay in our community, and they go to direct services for kids," Zimmerman said. "We'll raise over \$100,000 on this event this year. That's an important piece to our overall budget."

While the Boys & Girls Club does bring in grant money, it often is designated funding tied to specific programs.

Whether it goes toward keeping fees low, providing scholarships or starting a new tutoring program, Zimmerman said, unrestricted funds from special events and donations allow the organization to allocate the money where it sees fit.

"I am so fortunate that I work for an organization that the local community truly does support," he said.

Tuesday's Champions for Youth Tribute begins with a reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres from 6 to 7 p.m. at the downtown Waters Building. The program begins at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$75 and can be purchased at the door, online at www.bgcpea.org or by calling 843-662-1142.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Champions for Youth Tribute

Ten children released as hostage situation ends peacefully

From staff reports

EFFINGHAM — Ten children were freed Sunday after sheriff's deputies negotiated with a man who had held them hostage at a mobile home off Savannah Grove Road. The children were not harmed.

The man was taken into custody. He was identified as Dwayne Muldrow, 46, of 2745 Ed James Road, Effingham.

"Thank God there was no incident near the children," said Florence County Sheriff Kenney Boone.

Boone said the incident started shortly

after noon when a witness called and reported a crash near T & W Lane.

One of the drivers struggled to free himself from his car and, once out, walked to a nearby mobile home that had

See **HOSTAGES**, Page 3A



Each Monday, the Morning News features a good news story on a person, place or organization in the Pee Dee. If you have a suggestion for someone or something to profile, send it to news@13now.com.



Walter Sparrow has worked with people with special needs in Florence County since 1982. He will soon retire from his position as executive director of the Florence County Disabilities Foundation.

'Making a difference'



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN/MORNING NEWS

The Florence County Disabilities Foundation operates five Pee Dee Thrift stores throughout Florence County, which provides training and employment opportunities for over 35 individuals with lifelong disabilities.

As retirement nears, Walter Sparrow reflects on his years of service

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
dsweارينgen@florencenews.com

ONLINE

To learn more about the Florence County Disabilities Foundation, visit www.fcdfoundation.org.

FLORENCE — The motto of the Florence County Disabilities Foundation is "making a difference in people's lives."

For longtime foundation director Walter Sparrow, the motto rings true.

"It really is a wonderful, heartwarming feeling to know that I've had a positive impact on people's lives and to be able

to work with so many wonderful people along the way that have also helped make things happen," he said.

Sparrow will retire from the position at the end of September after serving those with special needs in Florence

County for decades.

In 1982, he became the first executive director of what is now called the Florence County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. The Florence County Disabilities Foundation was later chartered to provide financial and volunteer support to the board and Sparrow ultimately ended up there.

Service always has been an important

See **SPARROW**, Page 3A

First Free Will Baptist

Florence church breaks ground for new building

BY CHRISTINE MCCORMICK-COOPER
Correspondent

FLORENCE — First Free Will Baptist Church broke ground Sunday morning for a new building. Construction on the building begins today.

people, but this is about God's goodness to this church and what God's been doing over these last 65 years."

He drew a laugh from the congregation as he talked about recent conversations he had with



Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

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Voter registration drives planned

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

Several voter registration drives are scheduled in Aiken County as volunteers gear up to help people register ahead of the November general election.

The deadline to register for the general election is Oct. 8.

Volunteers are hosting voter registration drives at a different Aiken County public library branch every Tuesday through Sept. 27, with the first starting in Wagram last Tuesday.

The next are as follows:
• 10 a.m. to noon, 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nancy Carson Library, 135 Edgefield Road, North Augusta
• 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 6, New Ellenton

Branch Library, 113 Pine Hill Ave., New Ellenton

• 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 13, Midland Valley Branch Library, 9 Hillside Drive, Warrenville
• 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 20, Jackson Branch Library, 106 Main St., Jackson
• 10 a.m. to noon, 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 27, Aiken County Public Library, 314 Chesterfield St. S.W., Aiken

Another voter registration drive is planned at the ShooFest Music Festival at Perry Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 17.

Elizabeth Spivey, a volunteer coordinator with the Aiken County Democratic Party and the Democratic Women's Club, said it is important people head to the polls not just for the presidential race but local races,

as well.

"It's important for people to vote because your vote is your voice," she added. "It's important to make your voice heard, and I think it's a responsibility as a citizen of the United States to do that."

National Voter Registration Day

Please see **VOTE**, Page 10A

INSIDE TODAY



Wedding Expo offers one-stop planning

Local News, 3A

Savannah River Site hosts United Way Agency Day

Local News, 3A

SHARE YOUR SEPT. 11 STORY



As the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks nears, the *Aiken Standard* wants to hear our readers' Sept. 11 stories.

Everyone has one — before, during and after — where were you when the world stopped turning Sept. 11, 2001? And how have you been affected since?

Email your Sept. 11 story to mystory@aikenstandard.com and it could be included in our special Sept. 11 edition.

AREA DEATHS

Bessie M. Abner Bethel, Trenton
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



Iron Curtain escape lead Trooper Bob to America



STAFF PHOTO BY CINDY KUBOVIC

Sgt. Bob Beres, of the S.C. Highway Patrol, known as Trooper Bob throughout the state, immigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1971 from Communist Hungary.

Popular trooper's life story provides insight

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

S.C. Highway Patrol Sgt. Bob Beres has an incredible story to tell. It is a story not many people are aware of and goes above and beyond the incredible stories he tells South Carolina's young people as Trooper Bob, the public spokesperson for the South Carolina Highway Patrol and Commander of the Office of Community Relations.

A 23-year veteran of the S.C. Highway Patrol, Beres is well-known throughout the state as Trooper Bob and helped spearhead the South Carolina Department of Safety's Sober or Slammer emoji campaign this summer.

But it's a different kind of story Trooper Bob wants to tell, a story about his family and their escape from behind the Iron Curtain in 1971. Trooper Bob's story began in Communist Hungary in 1971 when his family escaped from behind the Iron Curtain before he was born.

"My family decided they no longer wanted the life they were living in Hungary," he said.

Escaping the Iron Curtain

Beres was born in a refugee camp in Austria, and recalls his family's incredible journey through stories told by his parents, Andrew and Margit Beres.

Please see **BERES**, Page 10A

Tickets on sale for 25th Aiken Fall Steeplechase

BY HOLLY KEMP
hkemp@aikenstandard.com

Local residents can celebrate the upcoming autumn season by purchasing Aiken Fall Steeplechase tickets today.

nal equine tradition in Aiken.

The Aiken Fall Steeplechase will be held rain or shine Saturday, Oct. 29, with gates opening at 9 a.m.

The Aiken Steeplechase is working with a new company to provide online tickets on its website this year.

"We hope the online ticketing transition will be smooth, but patrons can always contact our office with any questions. Tickets and parking may be purchased at the Steeplechase office, as well," Vigné said in the release.

In addition to the races, other events include the carriage parade, stick horse races, shopping, a hat contest, children's games at the Paddock Playground and trick-or-treating at the rail-side spaces.

Beres passes and several infield

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

A HISTORIC STEP

Waller reflects on childhood, being first black mayor in history of Calhoun Falls

By CONOR HUGHES
chughes@indexjournal.com

Johnnie Waller, 63, mayor of Calhoun Falls, was elected to office in 1992, making him the town's first black mayor.

At the time, not everyone was happy about it.

In fact, a man elected to city council that same year refused to take the oath of office, Waller said, because he did not want to serve under a black mayor.

"He refused to serve with me. That was my first dilemma," Waller said.

"He resigned before he even took the oath, then he thought about it for a couple of weeks and tried to come back. And we had to go through this long drawn out process and of course council did not vote him back."

Despite the actions of

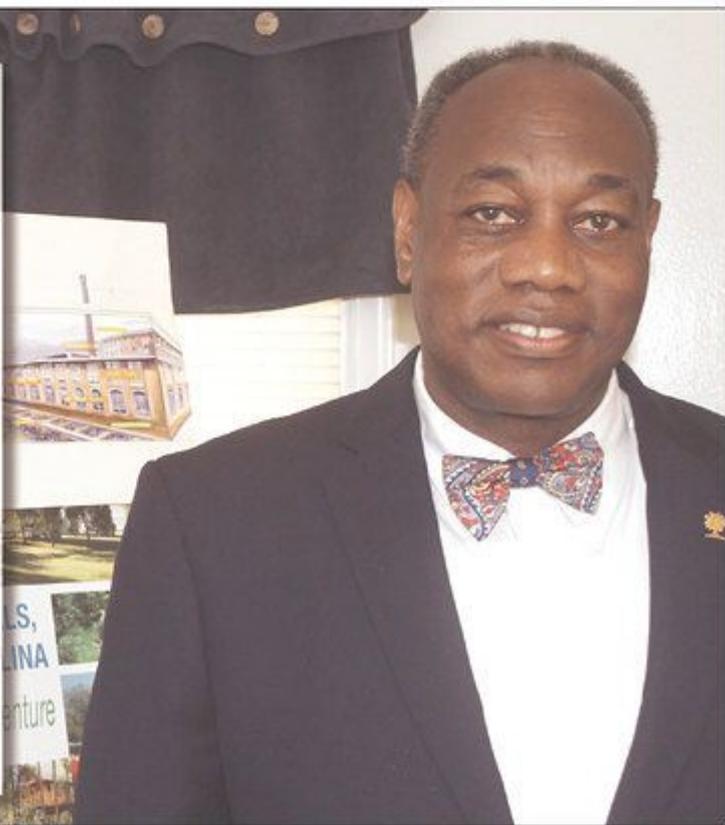


JOHNNIE WALLER
Mayor of Calhoun Falls

that individual, Waller said that the community as a whole embraced him once he was elected.

"There was no real (backlash) once you were there and you were meeting people's needs," Waller said. "One of the things that I did was that I took time with people. You didn't have to make an appointment to see me. If you wanted to call me at nine, 10, 11 o'clock at night, you could do that. I was accessible and I think a lot of people liked that."

See **MAYOR**, page 4A



CONOR HUGHES | INDEX JOURNAL

Calhoun Falls Mayor Johnnie Waller standing in front of a display promoting investment in tourism in the town.

Under their thumb: A look at Greenwood's sex offender registry

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

Officers keep a close eye on sex offenders — from ensuring they live more than 1,000 feet from a school to having them check in with the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office regularly each year.

The two officers in charge of managing the county's sex offender registry have seen the job transform in the two years they've worked it.

"It started as a job someone could do along with their full-time job," said Sergeant Jeff Graham, chuckling. "Now it's a full-time job for two."

When Graham and Records Clerk Della Sherard took over the registry, there were 265 registered sex offenders in the county. Now there are 165, Graham said.

"It's hard not to live within three miles of a sex offender," he said.

When convicted of any of a list of sex crimes, be it peeping or first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, a person is made to register. Their informa-



DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ | INDEX JOURNAL

Della Sherard and Jeff Graham manage Greenwood's sex offender registry, which keeps tabs on about 165 offenders throughout the county, Graham said.

to inform law enforcement of the change, or they can be arrested and charged with offenses are broken down into two tiers, with Tier II offenses being less

Detailed molds help ease loss of limbs for children

By LIV OSBY
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GREENVILLE — Born with a deformed left leg, Sonn was forced to walk on the top of his foot, a painful condition that meant getting around was tough.

The solution, doctors decided, was to amputate and fit him with a prosthetic.

But losing a limb, even a deformed one, is no small obstacle for a child to overcome.

So Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, where the 14-year-old Haitian boy is being treated, gave him something to remember it by — a detailed

through Childspring International.

"I didn't know how he would feel when he woke up and saw that his foot was gone," she told The Greenville News. "But I think it has helped him a lot psychologically to not grieve the loss of that foot."

Sonn was born with a rare condition called Type IV tibial dysplasia, said Dr. David E. Westberry, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Shriners. It affects the leg bone, ankle joint and foot, he said, leaving the leg bone too short and the ankle joint abnormal.

"In Sonn's case, the foot was rotated and because of this he was forced to walk on the top of his foot," he

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