

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 3/8/2016 8:40:31 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages - Tuesday, March 8, 2016

SC Front Pages – Tuesday, March 8, 2016

PREP BASKETBALL
Bests from
Weekend of
Champions, 1B



PALMETTO
Columbia is
more awesome than
you think. Why? 1C



TUESDAY MARCH 8 2016

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TODAY: MOSTLY SUNNY HI 77° LO 48°
 YESTERDAY: HI 70° LO 35° PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
 FORECAST, 8C

The State

Dairy Queen
planning 75
SC locations
in major push

Company plans to open dozens of DQ Grill & Chill restaurants in S.C.

Company wants to build up to 15 DQs in Columbia area

BY RODDIE BURRIS
rburris@thestate.com

Dairy Queen, the quarter-century-old fast food restaurant known mostly for its desserts, plans to expand in South Carolina in a big way, including metropolitan Columbia.

The Minnesota-based business has begun recruiting franchisors to open 75 stand-alone restaurants in the Palmetto State in coming years — up to 15 of those in the Columbia area, company executives said Monday.

The first of the new Columbia restaurants could open late this year or in early 2017, according to Jim Kerr, vice president of franchise development for International Dairy Queen Inc.

Internal analytics used by the company to help it plan and prioritize new markets

SEE DAIRY QUEEN, 7A



SHOP AROUND
ROSEWOOD CROSSING
STORES REOPEN
 PetSmart and Michaels have reopened in the Rosewood Crossing shopping center, months after the October floods severely damaged both stores. Marshalls plans to reopen in April. **6B**

2016 MIGHT BE WORSE

Brutal year leaves many farmers 'at edge of cliff'



Dean Hutto walks through a lost crop of peanuts as he discusses the impact the flood has had on farmers throughout the state. "I don't know that anybody in South Carolina has, and especially not South Carolina agriculture, seen devastation like this," he said.

"I've never seen the concern and depression among agricultural people that I see now," says one farm agent

"They're sitting at the edge of a cliff ... hoping someone would throw them a rope"

BY VERA BERGENGRUEN
vberengruen@mcclatchydc.com

ONLINE

thestate.com Video: S.C. farming devastated by flood

WASHINGTON

2015 was a terrible year for South Carolina farmers.

First, came an unusually late March freeze. Then, there was a scorching summer drought that withered crops of corn, soybeans and peanuts across wide swaths of the state. It was the worst harvest in decades as 35 counties were declared primary disaster areas.

And that was before the Oc-

tober storms that dropped 11 trillion gallons of water on the parched crops that farmers had labored all summer to irrigate. The fields flooded up to 2 feet in some low-lying areas, just days before the harvest.

"We will talk about 2015 as one of the really, really bad years," said Charles Davis, a Clemson University extension



A damaged crop of soybeans at the Hutto family farm in Holly Hill.

agent who oversees Calhoun and Richland counties. "The drought got the first half of our crop, and the flood got the second half, and that left us

with basically nothing." Shaken farmers are dragging their old debts into the new

SEE FARMERS, 7A

The Post and Courier

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Tuesday, March 8, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Wife: Suspect mentally unstable

Goose Creek neighbor stunned after 'wonderful father' accused of killing 2

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

The wife of a man accused of slaying, burning and burying two people at his Goose Creek home told investigators that her husband has a history of mental instability.

But at least one neighbor of James

Edward Loftis called him an excellent father and a kind person who had never raised concern in the community. Mary knew him as Eddie.

Loftis, 39, had been arrested three other times in South Carolina, all on misdemeanor charges from more than a decade ago. He now faces two counts of murder in the deaths early Saturday



Loftis

of a taxi driver and another person, both of whom have not been named publicly. A neighbor, Celeste Ward, said she and her family had befriended Loftis after moving to the community in 2002. Their children also became friends.

"He's a wonderful father and a great guy," she said. "I think everyone is just floored by this. ... I can't really wrap my

head around it."

More information about the slayings could be revealed as a result of further investigation, Maj. John Grainger of the Goose Creek Police Department said in a statement. He said it was too early to say whether anyone else might have been involved.

It will be up to the Berkeley County coroner to announce the homicide victims' identities. Detectives observed autopsies Monday morning of the two bodies, Grainger said.

"Investigators ... are interviewing various witnesses and following new and

existing leads," he said. "The investigation is in its infancy, and we realize that many questions remain unanswered."

Goose Creek had recorded a single homicide annually since 2013. The two deaths last weekend raised this year's total for the tri-county area to 13.

Charleston attorney Stephen Harris said he had been hired to represent Loftis, but he could not comment on the case until learning more about it. He asked the public to respect the Loftis family's privacy.

Please see **LOFTIS**, Page A6

Tent City unlikely to be gone by deadline

Officials want to make sure homeless get help as early April target nears



GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Dozens of tents and residents remain in Tent City under the Interstate 26 ramp on Monday as the early April deadline nears for the site to be cleared.

BY DIANE KNICH
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The city of Charleston probably won't find housing for all residents of the homeless encampment known as Tent City by its early April deadline, said Anthony Haro, executive director of the Lowcountry Homeless Coalition.

That's partly because the city and its team of supporters are trying to ensure these homeless residents get the help they need — and don't simply move their tent to a new part of town.

Of the more than 100 residents who lived there a few months ago,

PC Poll

Do you think the efforts to clear the Tent City have been effective? Go to postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

about 60 remain in the encampment off Meeting Street near the ramp to Interstate 26, said city spokesman Jack O'Toole.

City officials still are working to find temporary housing for those who will remain past early April.

After the encampment is totally cleared, O'Toole said, the city won't allow new tents to be pitched there.

Early last month, the city announced it planned to clear the encampment within 60 days. Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg said the city had spent weeks on plans to shut down the growing encampment, which was a health and safety concern.

Just before the city's plan was released, a fire damaged a few tents and a Tent City stabbing sent two people to the hospital. Tecklenburg said the decision to clear the encampment was not related to those incidents.

"Some Tent City residents are moving into apartments, which is great," Haro said. "But we're not

able to find viable housing options for everyone, unfortunately."

Haro is a member of a team of city officials and advocates for the homeless assembled by Tecklenburg to find a solution for the encampment.

It's not easy for some people to land an apartment, Haro said. And it's expensive.

To help a homeless person get off to a successful start in an apartment, advocates want to be able to help with rent for six months, Haro said. If such help isn't there, people often end up back on the street.

Please see **TENTS**, Page A6

District examines punitive policies

Blacks account for 83% of criminal charges in Chas. County schools

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

The Charleston County School District is taking a closer look at inconsistent disciplinary practices that disproportionately affect black students and have led to the arrest of children as young as 8 years old.

At a school board committee meeting Monday, Interim Director of Alternative Programs Jennifer Coker raised against zero-tolerance behavior policies in some schools that she called "punitive and exclusionary."

"Our discipline practices are not consistent across the district," Coker said. "I'll give you an example: I met with 11 high school assistant principals and said to them, 'So, a student comes to school high. What do you do?' And I got 11 different answers from 'I refer them for counseling' to 'I put them up for expulsion.'"

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A7

Sgt. Jasper project is moving forward

Beach Co.: Deal with city no longer option

BY ROBERT REIRE
rreire@postandcourier.com

The city's months-long effort to find a compromise for Charleston's Sergeant Jasper site may be for naught, as Beach Co. CEO John Darby said Monday that the negotiated plan is dead.

Instead, the company is moving forward with renovating its existing 1950s building and surrounding it with two new buildings that will include retail, office space and parking.

The city's Board of Architectural Review is set to look at those proposed designs — known as "Plan A" on Wednesday.

But that plan appears to be far less popular with the city and neighborhood and preservation groups than the so-called "Plan B," which they and the company helped draft.

Please see **JASPER**, Page A7

Inside NATION

Nancy Reagan should've pushed harder on AIDS, activists say. **A9**

LOCAL

S.C. Senate may consider nitrogen gas executions. **A6**

BUSINESS

Ports Authority buys site as part of harbor deepening. **B1**

Bloomberg won't make White House bid

NYC ex-mayor says 3-way race could give GOP the win

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Monday that he will not run for president, citing a concern that his independent bid would hand the White



Bloomberg

Inside

• GOP may fear loss of standing in 'weird election year.' **A8**

• Sanders: Clinton not being sincere on his auto bailout stance. **A8**

extraordinarily unpredictable presidential campaign, made his decision official through an editorial posted on the Bloomberg View website.

Bloomberg, in ending his third and likely final flirtation with a White House run, wrote that a three-way race could lead to no one winning a majority of electoral votes, which would send the race to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives — and, therefore, to one of the GOP front runners.

Please see **BLOOMBERG**, Page A8



Partly cloudy.
High 76, Low 50.
Complete 5-day
forecast, **B10**

Bridge B9
Business B1
Classifieds C1
Comics B8,9
Crossword B8, C8
Editorial A10
Movies B7
Obituaries B4
Sports C1
Sudoku B7
Television B6
Your Health D1

Charleston Deals today

ARMS Pest Management
\$29 for interior/exterior treatment;
\$39 for mosquito spray treatment.
See **A2**



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, 1C GAMECOCKS FLYING HIGH



LIFESTYLE, 1D Special puppies for special kids

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TUESDAY,
MARCH 8, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY N. KOREA THREATENS NUKE STRIKES ON U.S., S. KOREA PAGE 1B

Firm renews offer to sell landfill site

Lawmaker says MRR
Pickens also would
abandon coal ash fight

RON BARNETT
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Even as it postures for a possible legal battle over South Carolina's new coal ash law, the company that has been fighting to put a coal ash landfill in Pickens County told a state lawmaker as recently as Friday that it is willing to sell the landfill property for "a reasonable price" and abandon its plan.

"I honestly believe a reasonable offer would get them out of town," state Rep. Davey Hiott told *The Greenville News* on Monday, after speaking with representatives of MRR Pickens LLC on Friday.

An attorney for the company said the county hasn't made an offer.

"However, MRR Pickens remains open to discuss any reasonable offer to purchase the permitted landfill and the real property," Robert Goings said.

Interim County Administrator Tom Hendricks said during Monday's County Council meeting that he and the county attorney had talked with MRR about the idea of the county purchasing the property.

"We're not talking \$3.9 million," he said. "They want their lost potential profits and any other thing they can grab and garner out of Pickens County."

MRR said in a lawsuit against the county that it had spent \$3.9 million in developing the landfill and will lose \$25 million in profit if not allowed to go through with its coal ash disposal plan.

Councilman Tom Ponder raised concerns about the new state law, which makes special provision for coal ash "intended to be beneficially used."

"You've left loopholes in this bill," he said.

To put up a wall against coal ash de-

spite any loopholes or changes in state regulations, the council approved first reading on the county's Comprehensive Plan, in which it plans to add language that would specifically ban coal ash from being put in Pickens County.

Hiott, a Pickens Republican, introduced the bill signed by the governor last week requiring that coal ash from power plants be disposed of only in Class 3 landfills. Although it would have been lined like a Class 3 landfill, the proposed Pickens facility is permitted as a Class 2 landfill. Pickens County doesn't allow Class 3 landfills.

See LANDFILL, Page 4A

MASTER PLAN



Jonathan Hanna, left, from the Greenville County Planning Department, talking with community residents and leaders of City View meeting at Legacy Charter School to talk about planning and development.

House tax relief could hinge on roads bill

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA — Republican House leaders say what the Senate does this week with the roads bill could affect House plans for tax relief.

The Senate is considering a GOP plan authored by Sen. Larry Grooms, a Berkeley County Republican and chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, to provide \$400 million more per year for roads from recurring money in the General Fund.

The House last year passed a roads bill that would raise about the same amount of money, taking it from the pump as well as by increasing the cap on the sales tax on cars.

As part of that legislation, the House also approved tax relief that would amount to about \$50 million per year and subsequently passed a plan to give military retirees a tax break.

The House Ways and Means Committee recently approved a budget providing \$130 million in tax relief, to pay for the measures the House already has approved, plus a little bit more.

Some GOP House members would like to sweeten the tax relief pot even more. House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister of Greenville, told *The Greenville News*.

But he said those thoughts depend on whether the Senate continues to pursue its roads plan using the General Fund instead of raising new revenue, such as the gas tax.

"You can't do \$400 million in recurring revenue for roads and then turn around and do \$400 million in tax relief," said Bannister, who doesn't serve on the House budget-writing committee. "There's not that much money with the other things we have to address."

Rep. Brian White, an Anderson Republican and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, agrees.

"Clearly, if we're taking \$400 million out of the General Fund, I don't know if that's wise to fund our roads when there are other sustainable sources of revenue out there," he said.

City View leaders look to future

ANGELIA DAVIS
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The makings of a new road map guiding the future of City View could begin in fall.

That's probably the earliest that the county can begin working with residents and property owners in City View to come up with a master plan for the community, said Greenville Coun-

"Bringing people together and talking, communicating and sharing will build community. We want to be a part of that."

WILLIAMS BROWN
LEGACY CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, March 8, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Judge Roe won't seek re-election

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
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Aiken County Probate Judge Sue Roe, who has worked in the Aiken County Courthouse for at least five decades, has

announced she will not seek re-election in November.

In a letter dated March 3, Roe said it "has been my honor to serve the citizens of Aiken County as Probate Judge for the past 32 years. ... I would like to express my deep

appreciation to all the citizens of this county for allowing me to serve."

Roe defeated GOP challenger Jane Page Thompson in 2012 and ran a quiet campaign where she refused to participate in debates or political forums with her opponent, focus-

ing on campaigning "like a lady," the *Aiken Standard* reported following the election.

She was elected to take office on Jan. 1, 1984, and consecutively held the office of

Please see ROE, Page 9A

Resident remembers Reagan as gracious, self-assured first lady



Zee Homoki, left, speaks to Nancy Reagan while in Virginia in 2001 for the christening of the USS Ronald Reagan, an aircraft carrier. Homoki spoke to the former first lady on 10 or more occasions while she worked in Washington, D.C., and at other times afterward.

BY DEDE BILES
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

When Zee Homoki arrived at the Imani Winds concert at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church on Sunday afternoon, she was smiling and full of enthusiasm.

Homoki and her husband, Steve, an Aiken City Council member, were among the sponsors for the event, which was part of the Joy in Aiken Performing Arts Festival and Outreach program.

Even though her demeanor was sparkling, Homoki actually was feeling a little bit blue after hearing about the death of former first lady Nancy Reagan that morning.

Nancy Reagan died of congestive heart failure on Sunday at her home in Los Angeles. She was 94.

Homoki worked in the administration

of Ronald Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, and she spoke with his wife on 10 or more occasions during her time in Washington, D.C., and afterward.



Reagan

"I'm sad because I thought she was one of the nicest things that had ever happened to this country," Homoki said, "and I felt the same way about him, as well."

During Ronald Reagan's second term in the latter half of the 1980s, Homoki served as a White House liaison.

"I helped vet people that the president wanted to bring in to work for him to see

Please see REAGAN, Page 8A

Funeral plans

The funeral for former first lady Nancy Reagan will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California. It will be closed to the public.

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation announced Monday that Reagan will lie in repose for public visitation from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday.

Transportation to the library will be by shuttle from a Bank of America property in Simi Valley. Parking will not be allowed at the library.

— Information provided by the Associated Press



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN BROWN

The new York Street bridge will have a concrete base and pylon foundation with a wooden or faux wooden surface to keep the charm and aesthetics of the current bridge.

DOT: Design for bridges to include wood

BY DAN BROWN
dbrown@aikenstandard.com

There is good news and bad news for Aiken's historic wooden bridges.

The good news is when construction is completed, downtown Aiken will have a bridge with a wooden, or faux wooden surface, or deck, according to Randall Young, acting chief engineer for project delivery with the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

"We are planning on going to the public at the end of the month to present a concept plan on the York Street bridge, which will include a wooden or faux wooden surface and siding," Young said. "The base of the bridge and support pilings will be concrete."

The York Street bridge will retain its aesthetic charm to coincide with the historic character of the downtown Aiken area, but will also have the structural integrity to withstand the traffic demands as a main artery through town, Young added.

According to the SCDOT, the three wooden bridges in downtown Aiken — York, Fairfield and Union street bridges — span a National Register-Eligible Railroad Cut, and the York Street bridge is located within the boundary area of the Aiken Winter Colony II Historic District; however, the bridges themselves are not considered historic structures.

"The DOT does not allow their bridges to be historic structures," Young said.

The York Street bridge is being repaired and replaced first, ahead of the Fairfield and Union street bridges because of its proximity as a main traffic artery through the downtown Aiken area.

Please see BRIDGES, Page 9A

ALSO INSIDE

Historical marker honors those slain in massacre
Local News, 2A

AREA DEATHS

Donnie Tyler, Salley
Edward Marvin Meadows, Aiken
Fred Scott, Aiken
Mogwedell Goode, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Peers regard organist Jacobs as 'superstar'



BY ROB NOVIT
novit@aikenstandard.com

For decades, Don Dupee and Ken Courtney have served as music directors and organists at St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church, respectively.

Their own experiences make it easy for them to fully grasp the talent of Paul Jacobs, who performed at St. Thaddeus on Saturday and in Augusta on Sunday for the Joy in Aiken music festival.

"He is one of the premier organists in the world," Dupee said. "To have him here was

partment while still in his mid-20s.

In an interview Friday, he described his introduction to piano at the age of 5. He chose to transition to the organ about six years later, when "I was tall enough to reach the pedals."

Incredibly, at age 15, Jacobs was named the head organist at his own large church — Immaculate Conception — in Washington, Pennsylvania. After finishing college, he later received a graduate degree at Yale University.

"It's a good thing I could make music," Jacobs said. "I couldn't do anything else. It's my first and only love."

As his biography states, he's the only organist to have won a Grammy Award, and



Play ball!

Lakelands teams head to the diamond
Sports, 1B



Republican establishment worried about its status

News, 7A

INDEX-JOURNAL

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indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

DOGGONE GOOD DEED



PHOTOS BY MARY KATE MCGOWAN | INDEX-JOURNAL

Oscar, left, and Jeff play at the Grace Street Dog Park. The duo's owner, Kim Owens, who is the director of Greyhound Crossroads, is helping rescue Spanish Galgos, another breed of sight hounds.

Greyhound Crossroads expands to help Spanish Galgos live longer



Owens plays with her greyhounds Oscar, left, and Jeff Wednesday afternoon at the Grace Street Dog Park.

By MARY KATE MCGOWAN
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Greyhound Crossroads, a Greenwood-based nonprofit focused on retired racetrack Greyhound adoption, is stretching its paws to another country — Spain.

On April 11, three Spanish Galgos named Centurion, Greta and Lillian will travel from Spain to the Lakelands. Galgos are sight hounds, like Greyhounds, but they are a distinct breed.

Greyhound Crossroads director Kim Owens said Galgos are hunting dogs and are typically disposed of when they are no longer of use in Spain. From hanging them from trees to throwing them down wells to setting them loose to survive on their own, Owens said tens of thousands of Galgos die

See DEED, page 4A

City Council OKs alcohol use at Market

By MATTHEW HENSLEY
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Events at the Uptown Market will be able to serve beer and wine after Greenwood City Council approved an ordinance during a called meeting Monday night that set the guidelines for the sale and consumption of alcohol at the facility.

No residents chose to speak during a public hearing on the ordinance and, after Council decided to forego additional discussion, the ordinance was approved 3-2 at second reading.

Councilmen Ronnie Ables and Johnny Williams voted against the ordinance, as they did at first reading. Mayor Welborn Adams and Councilwoman Betty Boles were absent.

The ordinance allows the temporary suspension of the city's ordinance prohibiting alcohol in public areas in order to allow beer and wine to be served at public or private events on the property.

The city developed a similar ordinance for public events on Oregon Avenue next to the market, where the city hosts live concerts.

The policy prohibits glass and requires applicants for private events to hire State Law Enforcement Division-certified security. The number of security officers required will be determined by city police.

The ordinance sets up event areas, where private events would be restricted to the actual market and public events could stretch the block. It also prohibits the serving and consumption of alcohol on the premises before an event's start time and after 11 p.m.

The market's rental policy sets the application process and requirements to rent the property, such as deposits and necessary permits.



CHARLIE BARRINEAU

Fixing roads

During Council's regular work session, which followed the called meeting, City Manager Charlie Barrineau gave a first look at the list of the city's 2016 paving recommendations for the Greenwood County Transportation Committee, which currently tallies \$308,500 in work.

He said the city is only looking at roads it owns, which excludes a number of roads that are owned by the county or state. Before the meeting, he estimated about 75 percent of roads inside Greenwood's city limits are owned by the state.

One example of a state-owned road that needs work is Laurel Avenue, Barrineau told Council.

The current list of city recommendations includes:

— Pipe replacement on Spring Street for an estimated \$34,000.

— Deep patch or crack seal on Lodge Grounds for an estimated \$87,800.

— Mill, overlay and deep patch for Northgate for an estimated \$52,200.

— Deep patch or crack seal on Ridgewood Circle for an estimated \$39,500.

— Mill, overlay and deep patch for Towers Drive for an estimated \$79,400.

— Crack Seal for Wisewood and Blyth Heights for an estimated \$15,600.

Barrineau said the list will be on the agenda for Council's March 21 regular meeting and suggested that members tell staff which road projects they would like added to the list beforehand.

Once completed and approved by Council, the list will

See ALCOHOL, page 4A

the Sumter ITEM

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016 75 CENTS

SERVING SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE OCTOBER 15, 1894

2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES | VOL. 121, NO. 121



Early food allergy prevention

New studies suggest giving infants peanuts, eggs could protect them long term **A5**

NATION



Reagan remembered for her forceful, private style **A3**

DEATHS, B5

Louie Elmer Ardis
Thomas Sherod
Juanita Ardis
Sadie N. Singleton
Emily Jackson

William W. Doby Jr.
Betty S. Lowery
Wayne W. Marquardt
Joe Deal Driggers
Caletha H. McElveen

WEATHER, A10

STAYING WARM

Mostly sunny and warm; clear sky tonight
HIGH 77, LOW 48

INSIDE

Classifieds B7
Comics B6
Opinion A8
Television A9

CONTACT US

Info: 774-1200
Advertising: 774-1237
Classifieds: 774-1234
Delivery: 774-1258
News and Sports:

Hospital CEO prioritizes local community support

Beaman says patient care, investing in area will be goals for new partnership

BY JIM HILLEY
jim@theitem.com



BEAMAN

Maintaining Palmetto Health Tuomey's relationship with the community is of primary importance, Palmetto Health CEO Charles "Chuck" Beaman said on Monday when he addressed a luncheon of Sumter Rotary Club at the O'Donnell House on Liberty Street. Beaman said the new partnership, which joined Palmetto Health and the former Tuomey Health-Care System, is going very well.

"Tuomey has been a cornerstone for the Sumter community for more than 100 years, and we want to build on that rich legacy," Beaman said.

"We want to focus on the word 'community,'" he said. He said the goal of Palmetto Health is to have health care that is centered on the patient, including the indigent, uninsured and underserved.

Central to that promise is a program in which 10 percent of the nonprofit health system's revenue is reinvested in the community through the nonprofit's "tithe system" administered through the Of-

fice of Community Health, Beaman said.

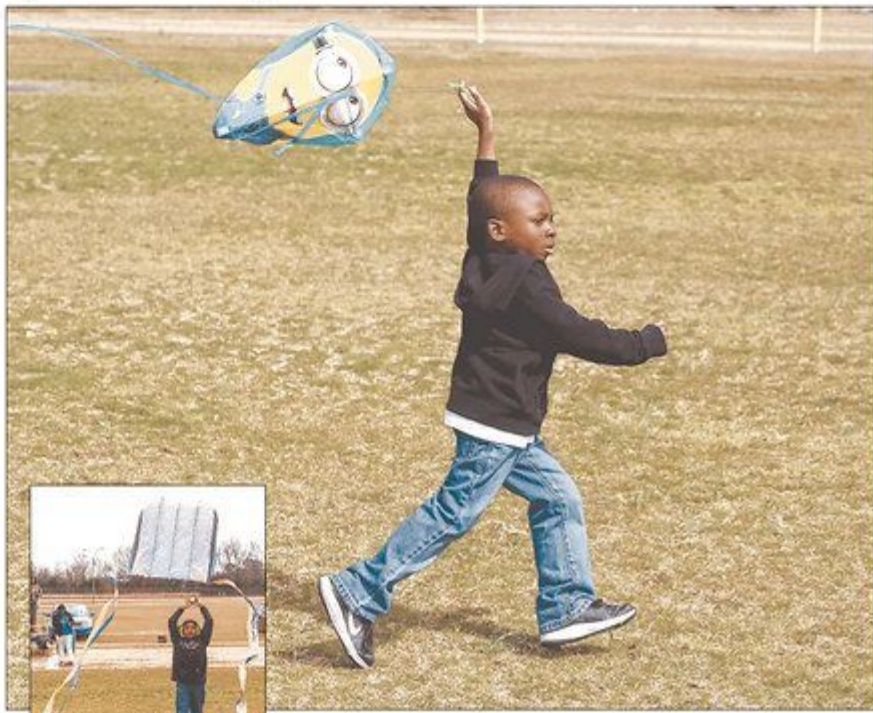
The "GoNoodle" program for schools, now being introduced in Kingsbury Elementary School and 21 other Sumter schools, is a product of that initiative, he said.

GoNoodle is an interactive resource used to increase students' physical activity and improve academic performance through activity breaks, according to www.palmettohealth.org. Having several breaks a day helps increase student energy and focus while improving classroom behavior, the website states.

Palmetto Health is committed to

SEE HEALTH CARE, PAGE A6

Eyes to the sky



PHOTOS BY KEITH GEDAMKE / THE SUMTER ITEM

Jaquez Isaac, 4, above, runs to get his kite flying during Sumter County Department of Recreation and Parks' annual kite contest at Dillon Park on Saturday. The event was open to all ages and featured prizes for longest tail, shortest tail, most colorful and oldest and youngest participants.

Left, Kentrail Stamps, 10, works to get his kite aloft during the contest.

Alston will seek District 50 seat 2nd time in primary

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Rembert resident Brian L. Alston has announced his candidacy in the June 14 Democratic Primary for South Carolina House of Representatives, District 50.

Alston previously ran for the nomination in 2014 and said he was overwhelmed by the support he received.



In a news release announcing his candida-

need to address the daily issues in this district," Alston said. "I expect this to be a hard-fought campaign as last time. However, I am encouraged by the residents' desire to have change and try new approaches. I am prepared for this challenge and ready to fight for the citizens of this district."

Alston attended elementary and middle school in Sumter County and graduated from Columbia High School in 2006 with honors, according to a news release.

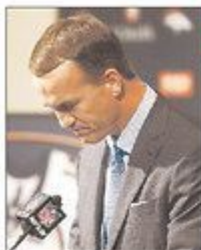
Students have 'brain breaks' with GoNoodle

BY KONSTANTIN VENGEROVSKY

konstantin@theitem.com

Kingsbury Elementary School preschool students' faces lit up as they jumped in the air and danced to different songs at the school's media center on Monday.

The 40 students were participating in GoNoodle, an interactive program incorporating physical activities, such as running, jumping, dancing, stretching and deep breathing. The computer-based pro-



SPORTS Peyton Manning jokes, chokes up during retirement remarks. **Page 1B**

Morning News

TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

**TODAY'S
WEATHER**

Mostly sunny and warm.
High 78, low 47.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

75 cents

Florence School District One

Déjà vu

Royall's Barley surprised again, this time as SC Teacher of the Year finalist

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com

MORE ONLINE

» See a video at scnw.com.

Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman.

"We have all come to make a special announcement," Spearman said. "Ms. Barley is the Florence One District Teacher of the Year. That means she is the best teacher in the whole district. We are here today to let her know that she is one of five finalists ... and she may become the South

See **BARLEY**, Page 3A



Leah Barley (left) gets good news Monday morning from South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman. Barley, a Royall Elementary School writing lab teacher, found out that she is one of five finalists for state teacher of the year.

FLORENCE — In early September 2015, Leah Barley was in her classroom waiting for students to return from another class when several unannounced guests came through her door.

On Monday morning, it was nearly déjà vu for the Royall Elementary School writing lab

teacher.

Barley, who had been named the Florence School District One 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year in September, found out Monday that she is one of five finalists for South Carolina Teacher of the Year. The surprise announcement came from South Carolina

Roads, farms talking points at event for Leatherman

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — At a community forum hosted by Florence Republican Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. on Monday evening, constituents boasted about the 36-year S.C. Senate veteran's achievements on roads and agriculture in the Pee Dee.



Leatherman

Potential voters met over a free chicken-bog dinner at the West Florence Fire Station and listened to Leatherman discuss the issues that he thinks are the most important ones now facing the state.

Despite reports of criticism and favoritism from other senators and the governor, many attendees said Leatherman has always kept his promise to the people of Florence County.

Ben Kitrell, a Florence resident, said Leatherman has done more for the Pee Dee than any other politician in his lifetime. If more politicians would do the same for their voters, he said, government would be more efficient.

"I've seen him make a lot of changes around here," he said. "A lot of what goes on in the state happens in the Upstate, and the Pee Dee gets the short end. Hugh Leatherman looks out for not only Florence but the entire Pee Dee. It's not too much power; it's doing what you told the people you were going to do."

Dupree Atkinson, also a Florence resident, said his biggest concern in state government is the farm aid bill that is sitting in the Senate. He said Leatherman promised him action on that bill, so Atkinson is confident something will happen soon.

"He's assured us he's going to get it passed, and I'll tell you he's always been a man of his word," he said. "He's always looked after South Carolina agriculture. He's a key person for us."

Leatherman, also the Senate president pro-tempore and finance committee chairman, said his constituents

History in the making



Three students (left) competing in the junior group exhibit category are evaluated by a group of judges during the History Day competition Monday at the Historic Bean Market in Lake City.



Three students competing in the junior group exhibit category are evaluated by a group of judges during the History Day competition.

Pee Dee competition sparks creativity, enhances learning

BY JESSICA IMBIMO
Morning News
jimbimo@florencenews.com

LAKE CITY — Almost 200 students from various middle and high schools gathered Monday at the Historic Bean Market for the National History Day Pee Dee Regional competition.

In what some people would consider a "science fair" for history buffs, this

annual competition hosts students from various private and public schools in Florence, Clarendon and Georgetown counties for a historic high-stakes contest. Of the 194 hopeful participants this year, less than 30 were chosen to compete at the state competition, to be held April 23 in Columbia.

See **HISTORY**, Page 3A

Darlington County

Council takes up ordinances and approves new fire truck

BY JIM FAILE

new tanker/pumper at a price reserve or possibly sold.

dating the county's purchasing

NATION

A lack of access to combat rifles is leaving Navy SEALs vulnerable 6A



SPORTS

British Open winner Zach Johnson to play RBC Heritage 1B



TUESDAY MARCH 8 2016

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HILTON HEAD ISLAND
BLUFFTON



Mostly sunny
70°/54° See 2A

THE ISLAND PACKET



Mourners embrace before entering Anderson Funeral Home and Crematory for Pat Conroy's visitation on Monday evening. The Beaufort author died on Friday of pancreatic cancer. Conroy's funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. today at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Lady's Island.

PAT CONROY: 1945-2016

Friends, family, fans pay respects

Educators, roommates, writers, former students are among the hundreds to visit Anderson Funeral Home

More than 100 cars filled the grassy lot next to the funeral home Monday during the visitation time

Funeral is 11 a.m. today at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Lady's Island; interment will be private

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU
fastenau@beaufortgazette.com

Herman Gaither and Pat Conroy were both in the Beaufort County School system at the same time during the late 1960s.

Gaither and his wife, Ramona, taught at Robert Smalls High School, and Conroy was down on Daufuskie Island. They learned by listening to the stories of Conroy's teacher, Gene Norris.

The Gaithers were among hundreds to pay respects at a visitation for Pat Conroy's family and friends Monday at Anderson Funeral Home in Beaufort. The author died Friday at his Beaufort home at age 70, several weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

"There are so many Pat stories — he was just a really good guy," said Gaither, who retired as Beaufort County schools superintendent in 2005. "The kind of relationship he had with the total community, especially

the Afro-American community, was just exceptional."

A funeral Mass for Conroy will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Lady's Island at 11 a.m. Tuesday.

Funeral director and manager Carla Anderson-Smith said those attending should be considerate of the family's request for a private interment and allow them to leave for the cemetery uninterrupted after the service.

The 1,200-seat church has held standing-room-only funerals in the past, she said, though it's likely some attendees will need to gather outside.

More than 100 cars filled the grassy lot next to the funeral home for visitation Monday.

There were The Citadel roommates and educators, writers and former students. And there were those who came to Beaufort because of Conroy's books

“HE WAS LARGER THAN LIFE AND MORE GENEROUS THAN ANYONE NEEDS TO BE.”

Karen Peluso

and found a personal connection with the author.

That's how photographer Karen Peluso and her husband began vacationing on Fripp Island in 1999. Among the first people her husband encountered on the island was Conroy at the store.

"Who can we blame this great weather on?" Conroy asked him.

Peluso remembers Conroy's patience at book signings and for sending her husband a complimentary letter about a poem he had written.

"He was larger than life and more generous than anyone needs to be," Peluso said.

License tags in the parking lot Monday identified visitors from

SEE RESPECTS, 8A



Friends remember Conroy at islandpacket.com and beaufortgazette.com



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

100 CANDLES ON YOUR CAKE

If you want to live to be 100 — with a sound mind and body — there are things you should do now to smooth the way. 4B



NATION

GET WELL SOON, GOP PRIMARY

Ted Cruz is recovering in Houston while a hoarse Marco Rubio opts for fist-bumps instead of handshakes. 6A



LOWCOUNTRY LIFE

IS HEARING STILL BELIEVING?

The stethoscope, long a symbol of medicine, may have outlived its usefulness 4B

THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

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Pageland police chief returns to office amid questions, walkouts

REBECCA ROLLINS
Staff Reporter

When someone is being investigated in a small town, the scrutiny ripples throughout the entire community. Since October 2015, Pageland residents have had questions and concerns pertaining to the ongoing investigation into Police Chief Larry Brown, many of which are still unanswered.

On March 1, Pageland Town Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting. The hot topic of the evening was an executive session that was the first order of business on the agenda. Around 6:30 that night, council went behind closed doors to discuss "personnel matters" and continued deliberating until the members returned to public

session around 8 p.m.

Following the return to open session, council voted unanimously to reinstate Larry Brown to active status as Pageland's police chief, effective Monday, March 7.

"Chief Brown will be restored to active status as the town's chief of police. The Chief was placed on leave of absence October 30, 2015, pending a (State Law Enforcement Division) investigation. SLED recently completed an investigation, and the Fourth Circuit Solicitor informed us that SLED concluded that there were no criminal wrongdoings. The chief requested to be restored to active duty in light of SLED's determination and town council voted to grant his request," said Mayor Jason Evans.

The SLED investigation has been the topic of wonder, debate and anger. Many residents have expressed concerns throughout the past handful of council meetings over the lack of transparency concerning the details of what's actually being investigated. There are also conflicting reports as to whether the investigation is complete.

According to statements provided to The Link by Fourth Circuit Solicitor Will Rogers and SLED spokesperson Thom Berry, the investigation remains active.

"The case is still open at this time," stated Berry. No further details have been released.

Questions were raised about why council decided to reinstate Brown to active duty when the case is still



Diane Driggers/Staff Photographer

Pageland Town Council announces Pageland Police Chief Larry Brown's return to office.

considered open. Pageland Town Administrator Cecil Kimrey said he received a

note from the Fourth Circuit Solicitor's Office stating, "In my opinion, your case does

not warrant criminal prosecu-

See Pageland, 3A

Moore's Drive-in broken into

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

The Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department is investigating a break-in at Moore's Drive-In that occurred between 10-11:30 p.m. last Thursday night.

Deputies were dispatched to the restaurant located at 1407 W. Blvd. in Chesterfield around 11:45 p.m. after an employee discovered the business had been broken into. Officer Clarence Francis of the Chesterfield Police Department was first on the scene and cleared the business to ensure no one was still inside.

According to a CCSD report, the suspect gained entry to the building by breaking the glass front door. Once inside, the suspect also destroyed a door to gain access



Karyn Tredeau/Staff Photographer

Moore's Drive-In of Chesterfield was broken into last Thursday evening.

to an office to steal cash.

A sheriff's department K-9 unit was dispatched to the scene for possible tracking of

the suspect. Surveillance video from the store is also being reviewed.

Anyone with information

about the break-in should contact the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office at (843) 623-2101.

Cheraw's favorite citizen a Hometown Hero

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

Cheraw's favorite citizen was recognized by the S.C. House of Representatives in a resolution that stated: "A House resolution to recognize and honor Sammie McAlilly III of Chesterfield County as a Hometown Hero who has spread love and goodwill throughout his community."

Sammie was born Nov. 12, 1974, and began receiving assistance from CHESCO Services as a young adult. Since that time he has achieved many goals, including obtaining a job, a driver's license, a car and an apartment. However, everyone who knows him also knows he accomplished most of his achievements through hard work, his optimistic and outgoing personality, and deep faith in God.



Contributed

Sammie McAlilly III displays a copy of his S.C. House resolution to S.C. Rep. Richie Yow, who presented the resolution to the House on behalf of the Chesterfield County delegation.

ience store while attending Central High School in Pageland. He was then hired at Cheraw-Walton in 1994 and

there, greeting everyone and lifting their spirits.

Sammie has since become a role model for many, as

Services consumers who desire to work in the community. He is the reason many employers are now more receptive to hiring people with developmental disabilities.

Sammie became a stakeholder with the company in 2003 and was honored with the Sam Walton Hero Award in 2005, which is awarded annually to only 50 of the 2.1 million Walmart employees. The award recognizes associates "who most exemplify the three basic beliefs Sam Walton brought to his business - respect for the individual, striving for excellence, and customer service."

Sammie served as Grand Marshal of the Cheraw Christmas Parade in 2005 and continues to be in the annual parade, being almost as popular as Santa. In 2012, Sammie was invited to Walmart's annual shareholders meeting in



Contributed

Smoke billows from Johnson's Produce and Johnson's Signs in a fire Friday north of Pageland.

Pageland fire destroys one building, two businesses

JOAN YATES
Editor - The Link

When firefighters responded to the fire at Johnson's Produce and Johnson's Signs Friday, they knew it would be bad.

"Randy Johnson had some tires in there for his trucks. They created a lot of smoke. He had cardboard boxes and pallets, some plastic, for his produce," said Wendell

Johnson, chief of High Point Fire Department. "Josh had his sign business in there and had a lot of plastic and vinyl. All of that stuff is just made to burn. By the time anyone got to the fire, it was already fully involved."

Three local fire departments responded to the blaze, which occurred on U.S. Highway 601 north of

See Fire, 3A

Nestle shipping water

ROBERT MONNIE
Staff Reporter

Prior to the start of McBee Town Council's regular meeting last week, Lance Tully, senior natural resource specialist for Nestle Waters, confirmed the Nestle water bottling plant near McBee began shipping its product two weeks ago.

Tully added the factory with 59 employees, most of whom are from the local area, is operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The McBee factory will make

tion centers throughout the Carolinas and neighboring states.

During the meeting, council decided to schedule a 2016-17 budget work session at 4 p.m. April 5 that will be immediately followed by the monthly meeting at 5:45 p.m. Council plans to hold the first reading of next year's budget in May, followed by the second reading in June.

Council also moved forward on the procurement of body cameras for the two-man police department by approving for state and/or federal

Camlin Moore

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