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To:

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SC Front Pages j© Friday, March 18, 2016

The Post and Courier

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Friday, March 18, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Cadets urge Haley to loosen Citadel gun rules

Concealed weapons permit holders make their case after governor speaks at event

BY MICHAEL KACZOR
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What was billed as a leadership speech by Gov. Nikki Haley at The Citadel quickly turned into a platform for cadets who want to keep guns in their cars.

A school senior went right to the top Thursday, asking Haley to help change the campus policy that prohibits cadets with concealed weapons permits from storing guns in their vehicles.

The issue surfaced during a question-and-answer portion of the governor's address. Cadet Austin Lee took to the microphone and told Haley that more than 1,100 students had signed a petition supporting the shift.

According to law, Citadel policy conflicted with the state's permissible campus law.

"My question for you is: Will you support our advocacy for this much-needed change?" Lee said to Haley as the assembled troops of Cadets immediately erupted into whistles and clapping inside McFister Field House.



Haley

Haley noted the uproar. There please see GUNS, Page A12

Schools push for early start

Panel advances plan to let semester end before winter holiday

BY JEFFREY COLLINS
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COLUMBIA — Some South Carolina school systems are asking lawmakers to let them start school a week earlier in August so they can end their first semester before Christmas.

The bill next before a Senate subcommittee Thursday, returning to a high 10-year-old when South Carolina passed the current law preventing schools from starting before the third Monday in August.

Tourism groups pushed hard for the later start dates because they would have more people beach vacation in August so vacation and teen workers could stay in their seasonal jobs longer.

The subcommittee approved the bill Thursday in an amendment setting the earliest start date at Aug. 15, later than the several Monday in August being pushed by some school systems.

Subcommittee chairman Sen. Wes Hayes, R-Sock Hill, said he wanted to advance the bill and preempt more discussion in the full Education Committee.

Please see SCHOOLS, Page A7

Inside

SPORTS

Big upsets mark start of NCAA Tournament. C1

"Underdog" role suits USC women's basketball team. C1

NATION & WORLD

Secretary Kerry says Islamic State committing genocide in Iraq, Syria. A18

Every Other Breath

Mysterious, tiny sea creatures known as plankton could very well determine the climate's fate.

Online today at postandcourier.com and in print Sunday



'The budget didn't matter at all'

Schools audit: Lack of control led to \$18.9M shortfall



An accounting firm found some overspending trends that dated back to the final years of former Charleston County schools chief Nancy McGrier's administration. After her resignation, Michael Robby (left), who was chief financial officer, also served as interim superintendent.

BY PAUL BOWERS
pbowers@postandcourier.com

Out of control on entire payments and a "lack of basic budgetary control" helped cause the Charleston County School District's disastrous \$18.9 million budget shortfall last school year, according to a financial report commissioned by the district.

Teachers and students are about to feel the consequences of financial mismanagement.

PC Poll

What would you do to avoid another budget crisis in the Charleston County School District? Can you postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

et al. quagmire that were several years in the making. Seeking to avoid another budget meltdown, the school board voted Monday

to increase classroom sizes in more grades, cutting 113 of 2,014 general education teaching positions to save \$2.35 million this fall. With a goal of cutting \$19 million from next year's budget, the board is pondering other drastic measures including firing literacy specialists, closing small schools and forcing families to pay for lost positions to magnet schools.

Please see AUDIT, Page A8

Measure to address domestic violence

House to budget \$4M for additional prosecutors, judges

BY CYNTHIA BOLAN
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COLUMBIA — S.C. House budget writers are agreeing to cover the cost of hiring 19 more domestic violence prosecutors after advocates decried a national plan that delayed funding for years.

Gov. Nikki Haley was among those who called for the extra courtroom help so that South Carolina could move out of its national ranking of women killed by men.

Rep. Mike Price, R-Laurens, said Thursday he plans to order a memorandum to the state's budget to include \$2.9 million for new prosecutors and \$1.1 million for three judges to handle an increased caseload.

Haley's office issued a statement, along with other supporters, lauding the move.

"Crime victims can equally rely on Rep. Price to do what's right," Lonita Hudson, one of the state's top crime victim advocates, said after he offered the change.

The House is scheduled to start its floor debate on the state's roughly \$2.8 billion budget on Monday.

More courtroom prosecutors are needed, advocates say, because South Carolina is one of just three states in the country where police officers, not attorneys, are called upon to prosecute domestic violence crimes in the courtroom. The other states are Virginia and New Hampshire. Hiring more prosecutors was a long-sought recommendation of the governor's domestic violence task force.

The short-staffing places too much pressure on the officers by asking them to be prosecutors too, Hudson said.

Please see VIOLENCE, Page A12

Conservatives brainstorm ways to trip up Trump

Suek escape hatch ahead of Arizona

Palmetto Politics
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Inside

Graham backs Cruz as means of stopping Trump. A10

In delegate-rich Arizona.

The GOP has a escape alternative in Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, yet some party

Please see TRUMP, Page A10



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks Monday at a rally at Le Roy Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C. Trump is expecting a win in Arizona's March 22 primary.

CHUCK BURTON/AP



Mostly cloudy
High 71, low 55
Complete 5-day forecast, B10

Bridge	B9	Covered	B8D8	Univ	B7
Business	B1	Sea King	B7	Chester	B6
Classified	D1	Marine	B4C	Spa	C1
Clocks	B8-9	Local	A2	Recess	B5

Charleston Deals Today

Woolf's Street Playhouse
One adult ticket for \$12, 50 tickets at \$25 to The Netherlands, March 25-April 10. See A2

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

Double the fun: Alaina Coates producing scoring and rebounding for Gamecocks, 1B

Facts, figures, notebook and players to watch in Columbia Regional, 1B, 3B



FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2016

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TODAY: PARTLY SUNNY 61-72
TUESDAY: 66-71 50-55
FORECAST: 70-80
(as of 5 pm) 0.00"

The State



Eric Cobb, left, and Jamall Gregory wait in bond court Tuesday.

COLUMBIA NEIGHBORHOODS TARGETED

USC basketball players charged in property crimes

Columbia police announce arrest of Jamall Gregory and Eric Cobb

The two were released on personal recognizance bonds

Coach Frank Martin says he's aware of allegations

BY OLEN LUKE HANAGAN
ghanan@the-state.com

Police say a property-crimes investigation that landed two University of South Carolina basketball players in jail Thursday is ongoing.

USC freshman guard Jamall Gregory is charged with one count of malicious injury to real property and three counts of malicious injury to personal property, according to the Columbia Police Department. USC freshman forward Eric Cobb is charged with malicious injury to private property and third-degree assault and battery.

The students were booked Thursday at the Richland County jail. Judge Kristy Goldberg released the two on personal recognizance bonds — \$8,520 for Gregory and \$4,260 for Cobb.



Attorney Seth Rose leaves city bond court with suspended USC basketball players Eric Cobb, left, and Jamall Gregory.

ONLINE

THESTATE.COM: See a video from the jail, a video of residents describing damage

Attorney Seth Rose, a Richland County councilman, represented the students during the bond hearing.

TRACY GIANTE / JONES & KOPPELSON

SEE PLAYERS, 7A

LEAD IN WATER

Systems allowed to avoid lead testing for years

DHEC says it will crack down, requiring more frequent testing

Lawmaker says agency should have done so years ago

BY SAMMY FRUTWELL
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State regulators have allowed at least 20 water systems to avoid lead pollution testing for up to nine years under a law officials now say is too lenient amid growing concerns about exposure to lead, a toxic metal that can cause brain damage in children.

All of the systems were relatively small, ranging from a mobile home park near Columbia to a Pee Dee school and the town

of Ware Shoals in the Upstate, state records show.

A handful of industrial plants and two coastal water districts also were among those allowed to wait nine years between lead tests, according to data released by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

While not all of the systems waited the full nine years, DHEC officials said this week they no longer will allow water providers that flexibility.

SEE TESTING, 7A



Shop around

ANOTHER BARBERITOS TO OPEN

Barberitos Southwestern Grille & Cantina will open its second Midlands restaurant, at U.S. 378 and I-20 near Lexington. 7B



SPORTS BUSTING BRACKETS



E GREENVILLE
Small Plate
Crawl here
next week

The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

FRIDAY,
MARCH 18, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY SHAKEOUT SENDS TREMORS THROUGH U.S. ENERGY INDUSTRY **PAGE 1B**

GHS aims to reduce impact of cuts

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LOSBY@GANNETT.COM

Both clinical and administrative positions across Greenville Health System's network will be targeted as the hospital moves to close a \$16 million shortfall.

GHS, which has about 15,000 employees at its eight campuses and 175 outpatient practices, said Tuesday it plans to eliminate about 410 positions and reduce its capital budget by \$39 million to make

up for the loss, which occurred during the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Meanwhile, fewer than half the 594 jobs included in the \$2.2 billion 2016 budget trustees approved last September have been filled.

Doug Dorman, vice president of human resources, said that while plans haven't been finalized yet, the hospital will work to minimize the impact of the job cuts on clinical care. But because about half could come through attrition

and a voluntary incentive exit program, he doesn't know just how many positions will be impacted or in which areas.

"Hopefully at this stage," he told *The Greenville News* Thursday, "employees and others understand that we're ... working to minimize job loss and to continue to provide high quality clinical care."

Dorman said GHS hopes to find other positions within the system for affected employees, even if that means additional

training. Out-placement services, such as support writing resumes, will be offered to those who do lose their jobs, he said.

But in the meantime, he said, GHS is still actively recruiting physicians — whether through requiring existing practices or individuals from outside the area, he said. Other clinicians also are being recruited based on need.

See GHS, Page 11A



Cars crowd the landscape at Cleveland Park last Saturday. The impadown will become off limits for parking despite no solution in sight.

PHOTO BY JESSICA BAUMPOST/STAFF

A parking crunch for park visitors

ERIC CONNOR
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The spring sun brings out the wonders of Cleveland Park — the emerging flower buds along the Swamp Rabbit Trail, the cacophony of children on the playground, the zoo's new baby giraffe free to lark in his outdoors exhibit.

The park beckons more and more visitors each passing year as downtown Greenville flourishes, but the migration has created a new dilemma.

On warm weekend days — now even on those without special events — there's a scramble to park.

Or at least any place meant for parking. Instead, the city has opened up one of Cleveland Park's most expansive meadows to accommodate cars, a practice that has sparked a citizens' petition and a rethinking by the city of how to balance the park's popularity with the pastoral quality that has made it so attractive.

For now — and for lack of a better plan — the city intends



Senate panel OKs dash cam procedure

TIM SMITH
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COLUMBIA — Legislation that provides a process for releasing dash cam videos of police showings and protects the last utterances of victims in 911 calls is headed to the Senate Judiciary Committee after approval by a Senate panel.

A Senate judiciary subcommittee voted unanimously Thursday to report the bill favorably after a compromise was reached. Some senators had said they wanted the public's right to access such videos to be balanced against the interests of law enforcement, prosecutors and defendants.

Under the bill, law enforcement dash camera videos of officer showings would be considered public and available under the state Freedom of Information Act, but police and prosecutors could ask a circuit judge to withhold their release if there is "clear and convincing" evidence the video falls under one of several exemptions, such as depriving a defendant the right to a fair trial, interfering with a prospective law enforcement action or constituting an unreasonable invasion of personal privacy.

The hearing must be requested within 15 days and would require a judge's private review of the video.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin of Pickens, who authored the bill, said he thought the compromise made a better bill.

"It spells out a much better, more thoughtful process than the one that exists now," he said. "This, I think, goes well beyond what I set out to do."

Martin in December said he filed his bill in response to the fatal shooting in July of Zachary Hammond, a Seneca teen, by a police officer that was captured on the officer's dash-board camera.

The *Greenville News* filed a state Freedom of Information Act request for a copy of the video after the shooting and eventually sued for its release.

The video was released near the end of October after 10th Circuit Solicitor Chelissy Adams concluded that the officer's actions did not constitute a crime.

Martin said he was concerned over delays in the release of the video in the Seneca case but also in the year-

SPORTS

March Sadness:
Did your bracket
survive Day 1 of
tourney? 1B



LOCAL

Lauderdale:
Miss Norma is
leading the
parade of life 3A



FRIDAY MARCH 19, 2016

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BLUFFTONChance of rain
65°-59° See 1A

THE ISLAND PACKET

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

Middle school's early start irks parents

Classes begins at 7:20 a.m. and are not expected to change next year

Other district middle schools will begin about 9 a.m. in 2016-17

BY REBECCA LURRY
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A new later start time for most middle and high schools in the 2016-17 school year has been

hailed as a smart move by many Beaufort County parents, but it is angering some at Hilton Head Island Middle School, where the first bell will ring 40 minutes before any other next year.

The Beaufort County school

board voted Tuesday to change start times to give middle and high school students more time to sleep. The Hilton Head Island school cluster schedules, however, will remain the same.

Middle and high schools in the rest of the district will start about an hour later at 9 a.m., and elementary schools will start about 30 minutes earlier at 8 a.m., the board voted. This leaves Hilton Head Island Middle School as the sole school to

keep its 7:20 a.m. start time.

One mother called the Beaufort County School District office Thursday morning after dropping off her sixth-grader just to illustrate her point that a 7:20 a.m. start time is too early.

As expected, the office did not answer. It doesn't open until 8 a.m.

"I wonder why it's acceptable for my 12-year-old to have to be in class, and they feel it's sufficient for the school officials to not have to be," the caller, Amanda Gilliam, said she told the district in her voicemail. "To get him up at 6:45 in the morning is ... it's just unacceptable."

Generally, district officials agree. Before changing next year's start times for the rest of the district, Superintendent Jeff Moss and school board mem-

SEE EARLY, 7A

CAMPAIGN 2016

CAN THE DONALD BE STOPPED?

Conservative leaders huddle in Washington, D.C., to plot against GOP frontrunner Donald Trump. 5A



NATION

SEAWORLD SETS NEW ORCA RULES

In a decision applauded by animal rights activists, the park will stop breeding killer whales and making them perform. 6A



THE LONG READ

SHAPING UP FOR A BETTER LIFE

A South Carolina family is using athletic conditioning to maximize the abilities of their son with Down syndrome. 1C



Swiss exchange student and basketball neophyte Joelle Zingg, 17, photographed on Tuesday, achieved her season-long goal and scored a basket while playing in the final quarter of Beaufort Academy's final game of the year.

BEAUFORT ACADEMY

Exchange student makes a point — 2 points, really

blowout. Pride was the only thing riding on the shot. She looked nervous, her mother remembers.

She missed.

She saw the clock winding down, saw her mom in the stands. She'd been on the floor about 20 minutes against Bible Baptist, had managed to get a

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30 CENTS

schools.com

Darlington school board takes up policy revisions

BY JIM FAILE
jfaile@hartsvillemessenger.com

DARLINGTON — The Darlington County Board of Education gave final approval to several policy proposals during its regular monthly meeting Monday.

Most of the items are revisions

of existing policies aimed at reflecting recent changes in federal and state laws and regulations.

One of those included a change in the board's policy on the use of executive sessions to reflect a South Carolina Supreme Court ruling stating that a public body

must be specific when announcing the purpose for entering into executive session in compliance with the Freedom of Information ACT (FOIA). The court held that the FOIA allows public bodies to enter into executive session to discuss certain actions.

The South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA)

has added the court decision to the legal references for school boards. SCSBA advises boards to be careful when using executive sessions. The use of broad, general terms for going into closed session will not be upheld by the court if legal action is taken regarding possible FOIA

violations, SCSBA said. Boards should be as specific as possible without using names of individuals or entities.

Another change dealt with the board's meeting notification policy. The General Assembly

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 3A

Robinson nuclear plant NRC schedules open house to review 2015 performance

From staff reports

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled an open house for Wednesday to discuss the agency's assessment of the Robinson nuclear plant during 2015.

The plant, operated by Duke Energy, is located near Hartsville.

The open house, which will include informational posters, is scheduled from 5-6 p.m. at the Hartsville Memorial Library, 147 W. College Ave., in Hartsville.

NRC resident inspectors and other staff members will be available to answer questions on the safety performance and regulatory oversight of the Robinson plant, as well as highlights of NRC inspections.

"We invite the public to visit with us and find out what we're doing to ensure Robinson and other nuclear plants are operated safely," said NRC Region II Administrator Cathy Haney. "These annual meetings offer an opportunity for everyone, and especially people who live near the plant, to learn about our inspection

See **ROBINSON**, Page 3A

Hartsville Airport panel reviews current projects

BY JIM FAILE
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During its regular monthly meeting March 9, the Hartsville Airport Advisory Committee reviewed progress on some improvement projects and briefly discussed some longer-term projects.

A project to remove several problem trees that were encroaching into the airport glide path is now complete, officials said.

The Federal Aviation Administration asked the city to remove the trees for safety reasons. Several of the trees were on private property and the city had to negotiate with several property owners for rights to remove those trees.

See **AIRPORT**, Page 3A

Huskies help out in Hartsville



PHOTO BY JIM FAILE, HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Students from the University of Connecticut with the Honors Across State Borders project listen to Andrew Isola, construction supervisor with Habitat for Humanity, describe the different types of nails they will be using in building a Habitat for Humanity home on Hampton Street in Hartsville. The students are on their spring break and have been here since Sunday working on several homes. They leave today.

University of Connecticut students help build homes during spring break

BY JIM FAILE
jfaile@hartsvillemessenger.com

This is one of three new homes that students from the University of Connecticut have been working on this week in Hartsville. This is one of two Habitat homes under construction on Hampton Street.



The tip, tap, tap of half a dozen or more hammers hitting nails peppered the air on Hampton Street in Hartsville this week as students on spring break from the University of Connecticut helped build Habitat for Humanity homes.

The students are members of Honors Across State Borders (HASB), a University of Connecticut-based program that organized the trip to Hartsville. The group volunteers during spring break and is committed to community service around the United States.

In 2014, the group helped out in West Virginia and last year in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This year the students were Hartsville bound.

They arrived on Sunday.

All week they have helped with the construction of three homes and the revitalization of others in the south Hartsville area. They head home today but not without some reflective thoughts on Hartsville hospitality, its weather and the help they brought to others.

Why would Connecticut college students give up their spring break to do community work in rural South Carolina for strangers? For some the answers were easy.

Last week it was minus-15 degrees in Connecticut, said Sarah Verrano, as she

the Sumter ITEM

ROAD TRIP

Savannah, Georgia, celebrates St. Patrick all weekend A3

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House leaders make U-turn on roads

GOP leaders will back Senate plan

BY JIM HILLEY
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Republican leaders in the South Carolina House promised in a letter to Gov. Nikki Haley they won't insist on their version of a roads bill

passed last year to fund road repairs with a gasoline tax increase, but Democrats and some Republicans said the state needs to find a stable source of funding for infrastructure.

The promise from House Speaker Jay Lucas, R-Isle of Palms, means any increase in the state's gas tax won't happen this year.

Lucas had originally been critical of the Senate bill, calling the plan "deceptive."

"Not only does their plan mislead the people of South Carolina into thinking that a large pot of general fund money will be available every year for roads, it also practices reckless budgeting that jeopardizes the prosperity of our economy," Lucas

said shortly after the Senate ended a filibuster and passed the plan. "Kicking the can further down the road and into a giant pothole defies the test of real leadership."

The letter Lucas sent to the governor was also signed by Majority Leader Bruce Bamberger, R-Greenville, and Rep. Gary Simrill, R-Rock Hill,

who spent months getting together the roads plan that passed the House during the 2015 session. That plan included a gas tax increase as well as an income tax reduction.

However, many Republican legislators balked at voting to raise the gas tax during an election year after population

SEE ROADS, PAGE A6

Farm-to-table dinner



Carl Field from Johnny's Garden Juice Bar serves a Sunset Smoothie to the crowd attending the annual Farm to Table event at Sumter County Civic Center on Thursday. The event is held by Sumter Rotary Club and features locally grown food vendors and raises money for charity.

KEITH SPANGLER / THE SUMTER ITEM

Senate panel OKs releasing police shooting dash cam videos

COLUMBIA (AP) — Dash-board camera video of all police shootings in South Carolina would be released to the public unless investigators can convince a judge the footage would damage their case or jeopardize police procedure, according to a bill approved Thursday by a Senate subcommittee.

If a judge blocks the release, the judge must give a reason and say when it can be released, said Sen. Larry Martin, who pushed for the bill.

The Pickens Republican decided the legislation was necessary after the State Law Enforcement Division waited three months to release the video of a Seneca officer shooting and killing 18-year-old Zachary Hammond in July.

The agency released the video after a prosecutor decided the shooting was justified, saying police Lt. Mark Tiller feared he might be run over even though it appeared Tiller moved toward the car and put

himself in the dangerous situation. Without the video, speculation spread in the community that investigators were trying to hide something.

"This provides an important check on law enforcement and the system," Martin said.

Martin also submitted an amendment to the bill that would allow authorities to delete the final words of a dying victim from a 911 call released to the public. That was prompted by a Pickens County

case where a man shot a neighbor as he was calling 911 to report his friend was shot. The gunshot could be heard on the call, along with the victim's screams, gasps and moans.

The South Carolina Press Association did not oppose the amendment and supported the legislation on dash-board camera videos.

Law enforcement agencies use different standards to determine if a video should be made public under the Free-

dom of Information Act.

A prosecutor in Columbia decided to release stunning footage of a state trooper shooting a man during a traffic stop hours after he was fired in 2014.

The State Law Enforcement Division released dashcam video from a former North Charleston officer who is charged with murder in the shooting of Walter Scott after a traffic

SEE VIDEOS, PAGE A6



See the results of the first round
of the NCAA tournament **Sports, 3B**

INDEX-JOURNAL

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FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

McCormick names 3 finalists Rex Ward among those in running for superintendent job

By **ARIEL GILBREATH**
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Rex Ward, principal of Ninety Six High School, is one of three finalists for the McCormick County School District superintendent position.

Midday Thursday, the district released the names and resumes of the finalists, who were voted on at a meeting Tuesday night.

The other two finalists are Rosa Dingle, director of special education at Clarendon School District 1, and Don Doggett, a program associate at SLIDL, (formerly Southwest Edu-



**REX
WARD**

cational Development Laboratory). The board narrowed a field of 38 applicants to nine, then interviewed those nine at meetings on three consecutive nights last week.

The district plans to let the staff meet each candidate April 12-14 and will host a community reception 5:30-7 p.m. each of those days at McCormick Middle School. The board will make its selection April 18. July 1 is the new super-



**ROSA
DINGLE**

intendent's start date.

Rex Ward Ward, who started at Ninety Six High School as an assistant principal and spent the past eight years as principal, started as an educator in 1989 and spent five years teaching in McCormick County.

He started as a teacher and coach and moved his way up to administrative assistant, and ultimately, principal. He said he was inspired to get



**DON
DOGGETT**

into education by his high school football coach, who was his hero and a role model.

Ward, 51, said he's ready to take the next step to become superintendent, and his time in the McCormick County School District was a good experience.

"It was such a great place to work, and dealing with great people, and I felt like I made a difference every day when I came to work that I just want

to go back and give back to that community also," Ward said.

Ward said he is familiar with the community and had been in more than 80 houses in the county when he was the lead teacher at the charter school while getting students to join and talking with families.

"When I went into McCormick, I thought I was going to make a difference, but when it was all said and done, that county impacted me more than I impacted it — being able to sit in these citizens' houses and explain to them why I thought it was important for

See **MCCORMICK**, page 3A

SEA OF GREEN



PHOTOS BY DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ, INDEX-JOURNAL

The Emerald City Antique Auto Club brought a bright red Ford Thunderbird and Pontiac GTO Thursday to cruise through the 12th Wesley Commons St. Patrick's Day Parade.



LEFT: A boy dressed as a leprechaun tossed candies at paradegoers. **RIGHT:** Dressed as the Easter Bunny, a woman shook hands and handed out treats.



Wesley Commons hosts 12th annual holiday parade for community

By **DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ**
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With bagpipes blaring, shantrocks shining and kilt flowing in the breeze, the 12th annual Wesley Commons St. Patrick's Day parade made residents and visitors feel they had the luck of the Irish.

Among the floats decorated with bright green tinsel and streamers, a boy dressed as a leprechaun tossed candy out to the crowds gathered at the sides of the street. The Emerald High School Air Force Junior ROTC headed the procession, followed by Mayor William Adams and Wesley Commons CEO David Blackshore.

"It's a great time for the community and public

to get involved," said Andrea Holson, activities manager at Wesley Commons. "The parade's been growing annually with more participation, and we hope to reach out and get more involvement in the future."

The sun shone brightly, making the bright red paint of the Greenwood city fire truck and the

See **ST. PATRICK'S**, page 3A

■ CIRCUIT SEAT

Stumbo seeking second term

By **MATTHEW HENSELY**
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Solicitor David Stumbo will seek re-election to his Eighth Circuit seat, which serves Abbeville, Cisenwood, Laurens and Newberry counties.

The 59-year-old Republican filed paperwork Thursday with the State Election Commission in Columbia to seek a second four-year term as the circuit's top prosecutor.

"We're proud of the work we've done," said Stumbo, adding that he'd consider it an honor if voters re-elect him.

In the annual report released in January, Stumbo's office reported reducing the case backlog by 10 percent from the prior year and has had an 81 percent conviction rate at trial.

"We've seen violent crime rates begin to decrease in our area, and our commitment will remain unwavering to remove violent criminals, sexual predators and repeat offenders from our communities," Stumbo said.

Stumbo is a Greenwood native who lives in the Mountville community. Stumbo and his wife, Vanessa, have one son, Gabriel, and three daughters, Halle, Ruth, Maggie Brooks and Annie.

Other killings from Thursday:

Greenwood County

— State Rep. Anne Parks, D-Greenwood, is seeking a second term in the 2016 election.



**DAVID
STUMBO**



SPORTS Jacksonville coach locks on to South Carolina's Staley. **Page 1D**

Morning News

THURSDAY MARCH 18, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny and not as warm with a high of 73 and a low of 50.

DETAILS 2A

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Talking Trash



JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS

Florence County is taking steps to curb litter problems across the county in areas similar to this site along Jeffords Road in Florence.

Florence County picking up the fight against litter

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE—The county is using hidden cameras and other tactics to fight littering.

A large portion of the Florence County Council's March meeting was devoted to exploring how the county is trying to curb its litter problem, including higher fines and more strict violation enforcement.

Florence County Councilman Stephen DeBerry IV said litter isn't only an eyesore for the county; it's a disgrace to the millions of dollars of investment undertaken by the county and a potential detriment to future economic investment.

"We're investing millions of dollars to make Florence better and that's going great, but it seems contradictory to what we're doing to leave the mess that we see," he said. "We're pouring millions of dollars into our infrastructure and it seems like we don't want to take care of what we have."

On the back end, the county is reallocated funds to create two



An old lawn chair, a discarded couch and other bits of refuse lie along Jeffords Road in Florence.

officer positions for full-time litter control and clean-up. The county has also come to an agreement with the Palmer Persephone Work Center to provide six inmates for full-time litter cleanup.

County inmates are being put to work on weekends for roadside litter cleanup.

As far as prevention goes, Lt. Heidi Christmas, a managing

officer on Florence County's Environmental Services, said there are several "high volume litter" areas in the county that are being monitored more thoroughly than before.

This includes hidden cameras and undercover officers, some hidden from motorists' sight.

See **LITTER**, Page 4A

Florence students to compete in Battle of the Books

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
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FLORENCE—Students from Florence District One will show off their book smarts Saturday morning during the district's Battle of the Books. The event will be held at Delmar Elementary School starting at 9 a.m.

Moore Intermediate librarian Susan Lane said that the individual schools have competitions that take place over the course of a school year and they culminate in a district-wide event.

"The schools hold competitions throughout the year and it really depends on the school how many they have," Lane said.

"For instance, at Moore, we have two. We then form a school team and go to the district competition."

Lane said there is no qualifying standard that

would prohibit a school from taking part. All schools are invited to participate.

On Saturday, elementary-age students will participate from Briggs, Delmar, Dewey L. Carter, Moore Intermediate, North Vista, Royal and Timrod.

The books that students will be quizzed on are all part of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians Children's Book Award program.

"Any student that reads five of the books on that list is eligible to vote on which book they liked best, and then there is a state winner announced," Lane said. "This competition was created by the librarians in our district as a way to get students to read these books and participate in the state program."

See **BOOKS**, Page 4A

David Hobbs resigns as Art Trail Gallery executive director

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
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FLORENCE—David Hobbs announced Tuesday that he was resigning as executive director of the downtown Art Trail Gallery months after the gallery took a hiatus until its relocation to North Dargun Street.



Hobbs

Hobbs became executive director in 2014 but said he has been involved with the gallery for more than six years.

With the hiatus, the timing felt right to step down, Hobbs said.

"We've got this full between now and when the

new gallery opens," he said.

The new Art Trail Gallery is set to open sometime in the fall, according to City Manager Drew Griffin.

Architect Gary Brown of Goforth Brown and Associates is in the final stages of architectural design, and the project will then be put to bid, Griffin said.

"It will probably be a 90- to 120-day work schedule for that project," he said. "So if we can get it out pretty quickly then hopefully fall will be a good time."

Griffin acknowledged that it has been a trying period for the Art Trail Gallery with the relocation process but had nothing but praise for the work that Hobbs has done.

See **HOBBES**, Page 4A

Babyface and Brian McKnight to celebrate Mother's Day at the Florence Civic Center

BY DEBORAH SWEARINGEN
Morning News
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FLORENCE—R&B stars Babyface and Brian McKnight will take the stage of the Florence Civic Center on May 7.

Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds, an 11-time Grammy-award winner, and Brian McKnight will be performing classics and hits from each of their newer albums.

Babyface, who began his career as a guitarist and keyboardist in

his new album as "unapologetic R&B."

Babyface is also noted for his extensive songwriting and production credits.

He has produced and written hits for artists such as Whitney



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