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To:

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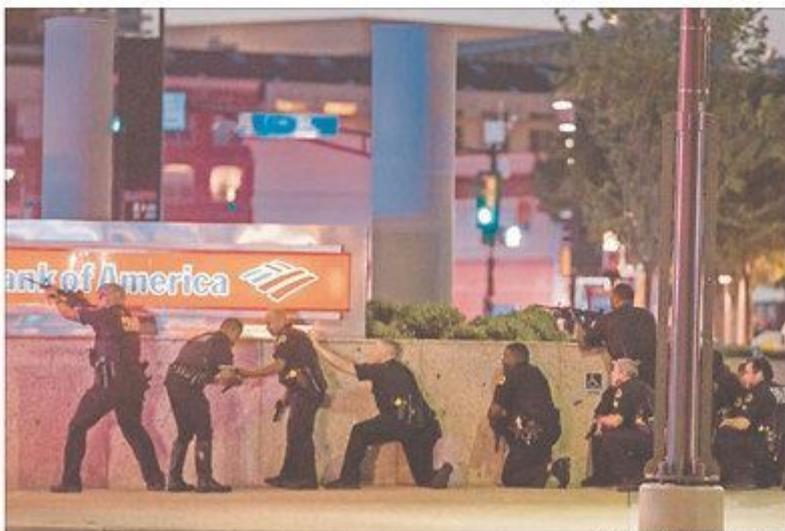
Friday, July 8, 2016

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Shooting protest in Dallas turns deadly

Snipers kill at least 4 police officers, wound 7 during rally



SMILEYN POOL/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Dallas police officers respond after shots were fired at a Black Lives Matter rally in downtown Dallas on Thursday.

BY TERRY WALLACE
Associated Press

DALLAS — Two snipers opened fire on police officers during protests in Dallas on Thursday night, killing four officers and injuring seven others, the police chief said.

A statement from Dallas Police Chief David Brown released by a city spokeswoman said "it appears that two snipers shot eleven police officers from elevated positions during the protest rally."

The gunfire broke out around 8:45 p.m. Thursday while hundreds of people were gathered to protest fatal police shootings this week in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and suburban St. Paul, Minnesota.

Brown's statement said three officers were dead, two were in surgery and three were in critical condition. "An intensive search" for suspects was underway, it said. No one was in custody.

The protesters had gathered after a Minnesota officer on Wednesday fatally shot Philando Castle while he was in a car with a woman and a child in a St. Paul suburb. The aftermath of the shooting was purportedly livestreamed in a widely shared Facebook video. A day earlier, Alton Sterling was shot in Louisiana.

Please see DALLAS, Page A7



TUNG SHEN/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

A Dallas Area Rapid Transit police officer receives comfort at the Baylor University Hospital emergency room entrance Thursday night in Dallas.

Clyburn: 'Black lives do matter'

Shares strong feelings on national issue

BY EMMA DUMAINE
edumaime@postandcourier.com

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn delivered emotional and personal remarks Thursday during a Congressional Black Caucus press conference where officials confronted the two most recent national shootings and their connection to a run of fatal encounters between young black men at the hands of law enforcement.



Clyburn

"Black lives do matter," said the South Carolina Democrat, punctuating each word. "And we here in the Congress must mature enough, grow up enough to have the kinds of adult discussions about the issues that plague us in this country in a way that will allow us to find the

Please see CLYBURN, Page A7

Feds: All seek justice in Roof case

Trial conflicts still key worry for Wilson

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

Despite courtroom conflicts between the state and federal authorities seeking Dylann Roof's execution, South Carolina's top federal prosecutor said this week that they all want the same thing: justice.

Acting U.S. Attorney Beth Drake penned a letter to survivors and loved ones of those slain in last year's mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church. It was her first public comment on the case since taking over for Bill Nettles, who resigned last month. Drake and the U.S. Department of



Roof

Please see ROOF, Page A5

Records shed little light on Haley's crisis response

Emanuel, flag issues handled in person, by phone

BY MAYA T. PRABHU
mprabhu@postandcourier.com

A voice that is almost completely absent from the 10,000 emails and correspondence sent to Gov. Nikki Haley in the aftermath of last year's Emanuel AME Church shooting and subsequent Confederate flag debate is the governor's herself.

Records show Haley declined to leave any sort of electronic public footprint post-Emanuel. Instead, she used what appeared to be one of at least two pre-written template responses to reply to emails from those voicing strong opinions on the shooting that killed nine black

Palmetto Politics
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partisans on June 17, 2015, and the Legislature's pending removal of the Confederate battle flag from Statehouse grounds.

"Thank you for taking the time to contact us," Haley wrote in one emailed response. "Inspired by the victims' families and the reopening of Emanuel A.M.E. Church, I felt

Please see RESPONSE, Page A6

Inside



SPORTS
Former Burke star Saunders heading to the Olympics. C1

LOCAL
Mount Pleasant Waterworks wants a portion of proposed sales tax for roads. A3

After charge dropped, coroner to hold inquest into toddler's death. A3

Grooms to school board: You have a right to pray

50 lawmakers sign letter about Berkeley district's dilemma

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

A Berkeley County lawmaker is weighing in on the school board's recent decision to abandon its practice of reciting a Christian prayer at meetings, even drafting other legislators from the far corners of the state to get involved.

Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Charleston, sent a letter to school board members Thursday — signed by 50 legislators — urging the board to recon-



Grooms

consider its decision last month to stop reciting the Lord's Prayer, as it has done for years.

Other Republican Berkeley County legislators who signed the letter are Rep. Samuel Rivers, Sen. Paul Campbell and Rep. Joe Danning, all of Goose Creek; Rep. Sylveste Davis of Moncks Corner; and Rep. Bill Crosby of North Charleston.

Please see PRAYER, Page A5



Partly cloudy. High 99. Low 79. Complete 5-day forecast. B10

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Charleston Deals today

Brown Dog Deli \$10 for \$20 worth of Brown Dog Deli. See A2



COLLEGE FOOTBALL
The 25 best football players in the SEC and the ACC, 1B

PALMETTO
'Dirty Dancing' is among the offerings during local theater season, 1C



FRIDAY JULY 8 2016

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TODAY: PARTLY CLOUDY HI 91 LO 81
YESTERDAY: HI 90 LO 73 PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"
FORECAST, 8C

The State



TRACY GLANTZ sglantz@thestate.com

Grace Beacham, 10, pitched two no-hitters and a perfect game for her team, the Dentsville All-Stars.

Pitch perfect: 10-year-old's work 'paid off'

'It was crazy. I didn't realize I pitched a perfect game'

BY LOU BEZJAK
lbezjak@thestate.com

It was a three-game stretch Grace Beacham won't forget.

The 10-year-old pitched a pair of no-hitters and a perfect game last month in helping the Dentsville Softball All-Stars to win the championship at the Dixie Angels X-Play 10U region tournament in Lancaster. The win helped Dentsville advance to the state championship, which begins Saturday at Freedom Florence Park in Florence.

Dentsville opens the tournament against host Florence.

"I wasn't thinking about it much," Beacham said while reflecting on her accomplishment. "Didn't realize what I had done right away. It was crazy. I didn't realize I pitched a perfect game. It was celebration. I was thinking how cool it was and how all the work I put into it. It paid off."

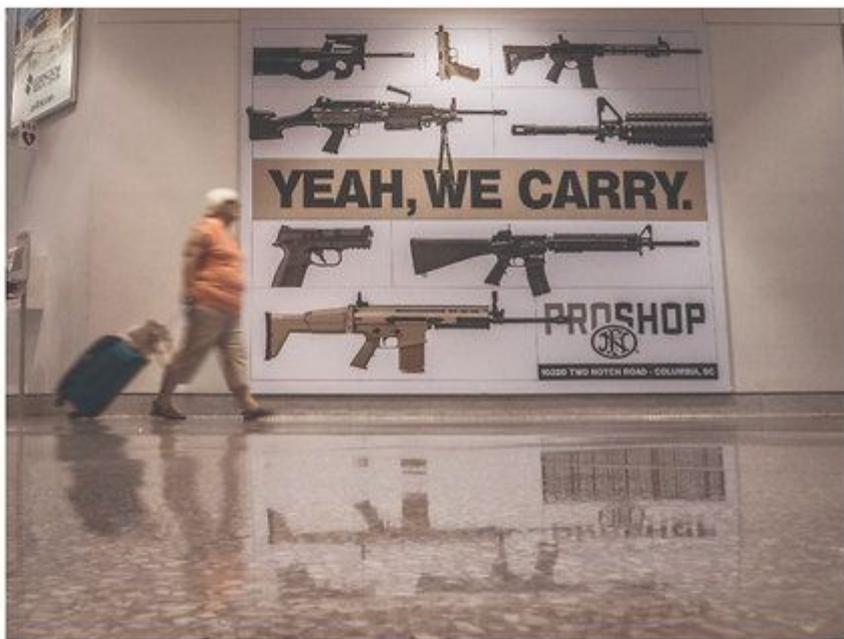
SEE PITCHER, 7A



BUSINESS

COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

Guns ad upsets some travelers



MATT WALSH mwalsh@thestate.com

A traveler passes by an FN Manufacturing sign in the Columbia Metropolitan Airport on Thursday.

FN Manufacturing ad displays an image of eight firearms in Columbia Metropolitan Airport concourse

Poet, gun-control advocate and state lawmaker question campaign's sensitivity

The Emanuel AME Church shootings were a year ago; the accused shooter is from Columbia

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
croldan@thestate.com

A year after poet Nikky Finney wondered who South Carolina's people would be after the removal of the State House's Confederate battle flag, an advertising campaign at Columbia Metropolitan Airport gave her an answer that brought her to tears.



Finney

store in the concourse area at Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The ad shows eight firearms

and in black, bold letters touts, "Yeah, we carry." "I'm still," said Finney of her reaction. "I don't look away from it, because I am so appalled at the

Both airport and FN Manufacturing officials dismissed questions about the sensitivity of the ad campaign, and instead highlighted FN as having been part of South Carolina for more than 30 years.

"The airport's advertising program provides an opportunity for community partners and local businesses such as FN to tell their stories," according to a statement released by the airport. "We are proud to support our local businesses by giving them this opportunity through our advertising program."

The statement did not include a response to when FN Manufacturing purchased the ad campaign, which includes two



MORE INSIDE

Read Finney's poem written for the state anniversary.



SPORTS
**BIRTHDAY
WISH: RIO**



E GREENVILLE
Cirque
brings bugs
to Upstate

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FRIDAY,
JULY 8, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY MOST NATO NATIONS FAIL TO PAY THEIR SHARE FOR DEFENSE **PAGE 1B**

Report details Liberty money issues

RON BARNETT
RBARNETT@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

When former Liberty city clerk Erin Lewis realized she had accidentally used her city-issued credit card to buy groceries at Ingles, she immediately went to the city treasurer to pay back the money, according to a statement she gave the State Law Enforcement Division.

"She told me that it was no big deal, that it happens all the time and if I used it for anything personal, just be sure to pay it back," Lewis wrote in a statement to SLED.

That was the beginning of trouble for Lewis, who was fired after running up a credit card bill of \$10,105 for personal items before the city's auditor discovered what was happening, according to SLED's report on its investigation into the small Pickens County town's finances.

She paid everything she owed the city a few days after SLED began its investigation, the report says.

Mayor Eric Boughman also used his city credit card routinely for personal purchases, with charges totaling \$2,819 over six months, but he paid the city back

each month to clear the balance, the SLED report says.

The 13th Circuit Solicitor's Office reviewed SLED's investigative file and decided not to seek criminal charges in the case.

"Based on the information provided, I conclude that the facts detailed in your report do not establish any criminal behavior sufficient to warrant prosecution of any suspect listed above," Deputy Solicitor Betty Strom wrote in a May 6 letter to SLED.

Strom declined to comment on the decision.

Attempts to reach Boughman and Lewis on Thursday were unsuccessful.

The SLED report, obtained under the state Freedom of Information Act, tells a tale of a small town that had no policy regarding the use of public funds for personal expenditures. A town where receipts for city purchases sometimes weren't kept.

One employee owed \$995 on a payroll advance, and another owed \$884 on an insurance over-payment at the time the SLED probe began, the report says.

See **MONEY**, Page 6A



Todd Janssen, left, Hannah Smith, center, and Ayden Woo, right, perform in the Children's Theatre production of the Knuffle Bunny.

HEIDI HELBRUNNSTAFF

**Theatre expanding,
seeks \$1.5M from city**

Council members express support at recent meeting

ERIC CONNOR
ECONNOR@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

The creative energy of aspiring young thespians inside the South Carolina Children's Theatre bounces off the walls, which enclose a confined space that can hardly hold their enthusiasm.

From the street, the Children's Theatre looks like just another insular business inside an unassuming, metal warehouse building in the West End — a place where unassuming, metal warehouse buildings aren't

next door in a district where property and lease values are skyrocketing.

It faces challenges, too — equal parts money and time.

The theater has a limited time frame to fulfill the last wishes of a wealthy Greenville woman who gifted land and is seeking millions of dollars both private and public.

The first request for public money — \$1.5 million in hospitality tax revenue — has come to the city of Greenville, which executive director Debbie Bell said she

**Preston
ordered
to repay
in scheme**

MIKE ELLIS
ANDERSON INDEPENDENT MAIL

Former Anderson County Administrator Joey Preston has agreed to repay \$1.2 million he got from being part of Ron Wilson's Ponzi scheme.

Preston was one of the "net-winners" in Wilson's \$57.4 million silver investment scheme that victimized nearly 800 people, including Wilson's brother and daughter, from the Upstate and across America.

Preston invested \$192,000 in Wilson's business and withdrew \$1.4 million, according to court documents.

Unlike many others being sued by a receiver appointed to recover money for the victims, Preston is identified as a promoter of the scheme and not just a "net-winner" of an investor.

Ron Wilson's Atlantic Bullion & Coin scam was one of the biggest Ponzi schemes in state history, run for a decade by Wilson, a former Anderson County Council member as well as a former head of the national Sons of Confederate Veterans and a former South Carolina Board of Education member.

Preston, now Bamberg County administrator, on Thursday referred questions to his Greenville attorney, Jim Bannister, who has not responded to a request for comment.

In a previous filing, the receiver's office, headed by Greenville attorney Beattie Ashmore, alleged Preston hosted "silver parties" at his home to

See **PRESTON**, Page 4A



COMING SUNDAY

A company with a state contract worth about \$20 million to look after some of South Carolina's most vulnerable adults has a

PASTOR, RABBI EXPLORE MEDICAL MARIJUANA

FAITH & FAMILY, D1



DALLAS POLICE: 10 OFFICERS SHOT AT PROTEST

NATION & WORLD, A3



Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Friday, July 8, 2016



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TODAY SAT SUN



97°/76° 97°/71° 94°/71°

Complete forecast, B6

UPSTATE



USC Union plans for 4-year nursing program

University of South Carolina Union leaders are working to bring a bachelor's in nursing program to the university. **C1**

Boiling Springs will have new gourmet burger restaurant

A new, unnamed gourmet burger restaurant will be added to a strip center on Highway 9 in Boiling Springs. **C1**

NATION & WORLD



Sailor's medical background questioned

The drowning of a sailor who was repeatedly pushed underwater by an instructor during Navy SEAL basic training raises a host of questions, beginning perhaps with this: Why would a highly elite unit made up of some of the toughest, fittest warriors ever to wear a uniform take someone with an enlarged heart and maybe asthma or allergies? **A3**

IN BRIEF

Jimmy, Rosalynn Carter reach 70th wedding anniversary

KILLINGS BY POLICE MINNESOTA

Post-shooting streamed live

Black man fatally shot during traffic stop for taillight

By Kyle Potter
The Associated Press

FALCON HEIGHTS, Minn. — A woman who watched as a police officer fatally shot her boyfriend during a traffic stop streamed the gruesome aftermath of the slaying live on Facebook, telling a worldwide audience that her companion had been shot "for no apparent reason" while reaching for his wallet.

Within hours, the Minnesota

governor was pressing for the Justice Department to open its second investigation of the week into the death of a black man at the hands of police.

"Nobody should be shot and killed in Minnesota for a tail light being out of function," Democrat Mark Dayton said. "Would this have happened if those passengers would have been white? I don't think it would have."

It was the second fatal police shooting in as many days. A black 37-year-old man was killed Tuesday by officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Alton Sterling's death was caught on video.

SEE SHOOTING, A5



Diamond Reynolds, the girlfriend of Philando Castile of St. Paul, cries outside the governor's residence Thursday in St. Paul, Minn. Castile was shot and killed Wednesday night after a traffic stop by police in Falcon Heights, Minn. A video shot by Reynolds of the shooting went viral. **JIM MONE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

AN EARLY START



EMAIL SCANDAL

Gowdy disputes Comey's decision

SC congressman upset
Clinton won't be charged

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

Having a two-tier justice system in which the well-known avoid punishment while ordinary people are held accountable endangers the country, according to U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy.

That was one of the conclusions the South Carolina congressman said he drew after questioning FBI Director James Comey Thursday afternoon.



Gowdy

Comey appeared before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to discuss the recently announced decision not to file charges





OUTDOORS Park rangers using 'CSI' tactics in response to bear attacks. **Page 1B**

Morning News

FRIDAY JULY 8, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny and hot.
High 100, low 78.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Soon-to-be Florence City Councilwoman Pat Gibson-Hye Moore speaks on recent high-profile shootings by police.



JOSHUA LLOYD/MORNING NEWS

Moore calls for action on police shootings

BY JOSHUA LLOYD
Morning News
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Florence City Council member-elect Pat Gibson-Hye Moore said Thursday during a news conference that she's heard from colleagues in New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., who say young black males who feel marginalized by law enforcement are ready to begin shooting officers at random.

Moore said she's appalled that black men and women are being needlessly killed at the hand of police officers, but that responding with violence is never the right answer.

"Violence will only create more problems and more death," Moore said. "Instead we need to, peacefully, across this country, demand more convictions on police officers who use their badge as legal death weapons. We need to demand Congress to take action."

Moore said she felt compelled to start the conversation in Florence in light of the recent outrage and protests sparked by the fatal police shootings of Alton Sterling outside a gas station in Baton Rouge and Philando Castile during a traffic stop just outside Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ONLINE
For a video from the news conference, visit scnw.com.

INSIDE
For more information on the shooting by police in Louisiana and Minnesota, see **Page 4A**.

She said Florence has its problems, but the city's police force in Florence is a good one and the residents know how to come together to work through hardship.

"Everything here is calm, but who knows what could happen if this violence spreads across the country? You never know what might click with a troubled young person," Moore said. "Right now I don't see that happening here. We have a good police force that works with our communities and responds to situations appropriately."

Florence Police Chief Allen Heidler said the key to successful, unbiased policing is building partnerships with every community in the city.

"Our goal is to obviously reduce crime in the city and we're very diligent in doing that, but we're also aware that we have to do that through community partnerships and mutual trust," he said. "Otherwise, we will not be productive in what we do."

Heidler said the established, positive police-citizen relationships in Florence work as both a layer of accountability on officers as well as deterrent to anyone who may target police after these types of incidents. "Anyone you have a serious incident in

Camp Pee Dee Pride enters 20th year



PHOTOS BY JESSICA IMBIMBO/MORNING NEWS

Pee Dee Pride campers danced and cheered during the many talent show performances.

Kids connect with deputies, counselors during summer vacation

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO
Morning News
jimbimbo20@mac.com



ABOVE: Camp counselors manned the judges' table to determine the best of the best during the talent show.

RIGHT: Bella Dowling entertains the crowd with a dance routine at the Camp Pee Dee Pride talent show.



FLORENCE — Fun. Something that there is no shortage of at Camp Pee Dee Pride, a summer camp run by the Florence County Sheriff's Office. The camp has been voted the Pee Dee's 2016 Best of the Best for summer camps two out of the last four years.

For the last two decades, Camp Pee Dee Pride has offered a safe and enjoyable environment for children, while promoting social growth through various activities. When the camp began in 1997, approximately 45 campers joined each of the two sessions that were held.

Since then, more than 5,800 campers have come through the program and the session sizes have grown. This year 106 campers signed up for the first session alone, according to Capt. Wayne Howard of the Florence County Sheriff's Office.

"We wish we could reach more," Howard said. "A lot of them say that's the best summer they've ever had. I hope it (the camp) will go on forever."

The first session ran from June 20 to July 1 and included trips to a water park, bowling alley and movie theater. The campers were also

See **PRIDE**, Page 3A

New cash crop being tested at Clemson Extension

BY MELISSA ROLLINS
Morning News
mrollins@florencenews.com



FLORENCE — If all goes well, South Carolina could soon have another cash crop: velvet grass.

Through a partnership between the Clemson Extension, South African company Hydromulch

ed States since the early 1900s, but in very limited quantities in just a few areas. Now researchers are working to see if the crop can survive in the weather conditions in South Carolina as well as thriving through other factors, such as the sandy soil in many parts of the state.

Bruce Coy, with DCI Marketing

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Duke Energy Progress seeks rate increase

Proposed 14.5 percent raise would be first in South Carolina in nearly three decades

From staff reports

A growing service area and expanded customer energy needs have led Duke Energy Progress to seek its first base rate increase in 28 years for its 168,000 South Carolina customers.

The utility has filed a request with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSCSC) to increase revenue by about \$79 million, for an overall increase of 14.5 percent.

"We work every day to keep costs as low as possible for our

customers," said Clark Gillespy, Duke Energy state president, South Carolina. "We have made significant investments in recent years to build a smarter energy infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing customer base, and to comply with rigid environmental requirements at the state and federal level. These investments are the main reason for the proposed increase."

The impact of the requested increase would be reduced by the \$16 million decrease in fuel charges that took effect July 1.

The decrease reflects the benefit of the new, highly efficient, natural-gas generation plants that represent the largest portion of this request.

This effectively reduces the overall impact on customer bills from 14.5 percent to 11.6 percent.

Even with the proposed bill increase, customers will pay lower rates than they did in 1988, when adjusted for inflation.

Under Duke Energy's proposed new rate structure, the typical monthly bill the average

residential customer pays will be \$12 less than the national average.

The average rate increase from the proposed changes for residential customers is 15.4 percent, while commercial and industrial customers would see an increase of 14.3 percent. The specific increase for individual customers will vary, depending on the rate they pay.

If the proposal is approved, the typical residential customer who uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity monthly

would pay about \$121.37 per month — an increase of \$16.60 — beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

The company has retired older, less-efficient coal plants that do not have state-of-the-art emissions controls, and replaced them with cleaner, natural-gas-fueled plants.

In recent years, Duke Energy Progress has invested about \$1.7 billion to complete natural-gas-fueled units at the Smith Energy Complex in Richmond County,

See **DUKE**, Page 5A

Deputies arrest three after finding meth lab in vehicle

From staff reports

Three people were arrested during a traffic stop on July 4 after an active meth lab was discovered inside their vehicle.

Rhonda Brooke Lloyd, Craig Allen Elias and Suzanna Leigh McCavley were each charged with manufacturing methamphetamine and disposal of methamphetamine waste.

Darlington County deputies stopped their vehicle near the intersection of North Fifth Street and Ruby Road in Hartsville on Monday evening, according to Sheriff Wayne Byrd.

Once the meth lab was found, Hartsville Fire and Phillip Recovery responded to assist with decontamination and cleanup.

Lloyd, Elias and McCavley were booked into the Darlington County Detention Center.



Elias



Lloyd



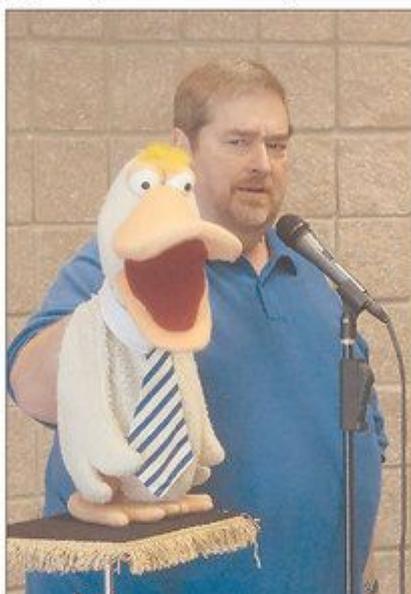
McCavley

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, READ



PHOTOS BY ARDE ARADON/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

The conference room at the Hartsville Memorial Library is filled to near capacity on Wednesdays this summer as the library encourages children to read, read and read. On Wednesday, Steve Brogan, comedian/ventriloquist, was the guest entertainer during the summer reading program. Programs continue on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. through July 27.



ABOVE: Boys and girls watched intently as Steve Brogan dazzled them with his card tricks and ventriloquism. LEFT: Switching the cards around for a card trick is Steve Brogan, guest entertainer for the On Your Mark, Get Set, Read.



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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 84, NO. 107

indexjournal.com

2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

BBQ FESTIVAL BEGINS



PHOTOS BY AREL GILREATH | INDEX-JOURNAL

ABOVE: Festival-goers stand in line at the Windows on the Green funnel cake and lemonade stand at the Festival of Discovery on Thursday. **BELOW:** Saxophonist Vanessa Collier signs fan Gwen Cottle's shirt after a performance at the Festival of Discovery in Uptown on Thursday evening.

Crowd hankering pulled pork, slide guitars descend on Uptown

By ANNA KATHRYN STODDARD and ARIEL GILREATH
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agilreath@indexjournal.com

The smell of sizzling barbecue wafted through Uptown Greenwood on Thursday as people piled on Main Street for the 16th annual Festival of Discovery and Greenwood Blues Cruise.

Amidst all of the barbecue cookers, Anastasia and Bob Haynes worked to set up their funnel cake and lemonade station, Windows on the Green.

As cookers who have participated since the first Festival of Discovery, Anastasia Haynes said she and her husband have experienced the

See **FESTIVAL**, page 4A



The smell of barbecue and the sound blues music filled the air in Uptown Thursday for the Festival of Discovery and Greenwood Blues Cruise. For more photos and video, visit indexjournal.com.

SHERIFF RACE

Kittles endorses Fisher, pans Kelly

By DAMIAN DOMINGUEZ
ddominguez@indexjournal.com

After losing his own bid for Greenwood County sheriff, Dale Kittles has thrown his support behind Democratic candidate Arnie Fisher.

A former captain with the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office, Kittles resigned from the office to run against incumbent Sheriff Tony Davis. During the June 14 primary elections, Kittles didn't gather the votes needed to beat the Republican competition — Davis and Dennis Kelly, a retired Highway Patrol trooper.

"I am totally in Arnie Fisher's ballpark — completely supporting him," Kittles said Thursday. "It's not a Republican or Democrat thing. I believe in the people's process to vote for who you want."

Kittles' said Fisher's experience as a retired Navy officer in charge of a bomb-detecting canine unit provides the leadership experience the sheriff's office needs. Fisher's push for community service programs and organizations was also a tipping point for Kittles, he said.

"In my own campaign, that's one of the things I was most passionate about," he said.

See **ENDORSES**, page 4A



DALE KITTLES



ARNIE FISHER



DENNIS KELLY

Ware Shoals hit-and-run victim one of 77 in Greenwood since Jan. 1



By ADAM BENSON
abenson@indexjournal.com

In a split second last week, a mundane drive to work for Kenyata Daigrepoint turned into a miracle.

The Ware Shoals woman was traveling along Seaboard Avenue in Greenwood on June 30 when a dark blue pickup truck smashed into the front of her car and then took off, causing about \$5,000 in damage and leaving Daigrepoint unharmed but shaken.

"I'm just glad I didn't hit the windshield or had any bones sticking out. I took a minute and got

Want more?

Check out video at indexjournal.com

The odds of Daigrepoint's case being successfully cleared is daunting. Since Jan. 1, there have been 77 hit-and-run wrecks within the city, and three have been solved — that's a rate of just 4 percent.

Part of the problem, says Greenwood Police Maj. Urban Mitchell, is the nature of the crime.

"The majority of those is where somebody is either parked on the street in front of their house, or in

then it's closed out but if we have any to pursue, certainly they remain under investigation."

Penalties can be severe. Under the S.C. Code of Law, leaving the scene of an accident can bring jail time of between one and 25 years, and fines up to \$25,000 if death results. There's also the possibility of a driver's license being suspended.

Daigrepoint drives with her 5-year-old god daughter, Empress Jones, so much that she has blocks in the car for the toddler. Oftentimes, her 12-year-old son, Ellis Jackson Jr., is with her as well. Neither of the children were in the car

Camlin Moore

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