

From: Symmes, Brian

To:

Date: 9/19/2013 8:47:40 AM

Subject: SC Front Pages - Thursday, September 19, 2013

SC Front Pages – Thursday, September 19, 2013



CLEMSON FOOTBALL A STRONG HISTORY



METRO New name for BI-LO Center

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2013
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

METRO

Co-defendant sentenced in Capital Investment Funding securities-fraud case, 1B

FINAL EDITION

USC PROPOSES TUITION DEAL

School would swap
freeze for state funds

By Tim Smith
Staff writer

COLUMBIA — University of South Carolina President Harris Pastides' proposal to swap a tuition freeze for more state funding is drawing interest but no promises from lawmakers.

Pastides, who made his proposal in his annual state of the university speech Wednesday, offered to freeze tuition at the state's flagship university for three years if the Legislature would increase state funding.

"This year, I plan to ask state government to work with us — and all public universities — to commit to a Fair Funding strategy," Pastides said, according to a copy of his speech.

"This will help us make higher education accessible and affordable and it will stem the deplorable trend of fewer Americans and fewer South Carolinians attending college."

Pastides said colleges and universities in the state have only received about 2.7 percent of almost \$1 billion in new recurring dollars from lawmakers in the past two years.

The USC Columbia campus

was appropriated about \$106 million in General Fund dollars for the current year out of a total budget for the campus of almost \$1 billion, legislative budget records show. In fiscal year 2009, lawmakers appropriated \$178.8 million to the campus, according to records.

The school this summer raised tuition for the current school year by 3.13 percent, to \$10,816 for in-state students.

"I'll ask the state to recognize that unfunded mandates relating to government-determined faculty and staff raises, increases in employer health insurance contributions and increases in energy costs have been borne by our students and their families and this is not fair," Pastides said.

Pastides also offered to place

See USC, Page 3A

Fed will continue buying bonds

Bernanke cites weak
outlook for economy

By Martin Crubinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a surprise, the Federal Reserve decided against reducing its stimulus for the U.S. economy because its outlook for growth has dimmed in the past three months.



Ben
Bernanke

The Fed said it will continue to buy \$85 billion a month in bonds while it awaits conclusive evidence that the economy is strengthening. The Fed's bond purchases are intended to keep long-term borrowing rates low to boost spending and economic growth.

"Conditions in the job market today are still far from what all of us would like to see," Chairman Ben Bernanke said at a news conference shortly after the statement was released.

Stocks spiked after the Fed

See FED, Page 3A

INSIDE

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Horoscope	2D	Voices	4A
Kids Page	4D	Weather	6C



High 82
Low 65



Leaders from South Carolina and Georgia have begun looking at ways to collaborate on water management for the Savannah River. The issue is one of great interest to many residents and businesses in the vicinity of Lake Hartwell, above. (HEIDI HELLBRUN/STAFF)

S.C., Ga. leaders seek solutions for Savannah River

By Nathaniel Cary

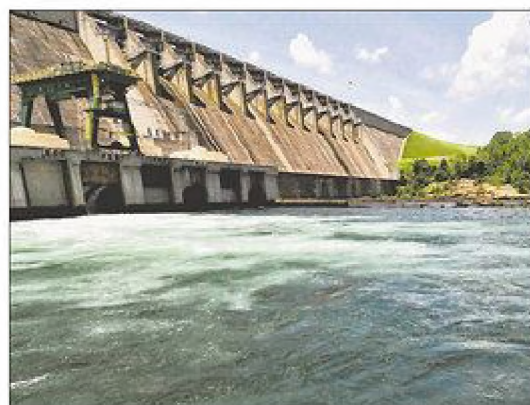
Staff Writer
ncary@greenvillenews.com

As water lapped the shores of Lake Hartwell on Wednesday, several hundred Savannah River Basin stakeholders were reminded of the vital resource that divides two states and threatens to bring contention unless the leaders of South Carolina and Georgia can work out a solution.

How the two states use the Savannah River, a gateway from the ocean into both states and a 400-mile-long ribbon of life- and economy-sustaining water, is at the center of negotiations between legislators from South Carolina and Georgia. Through a new partnership, they will tackle a bevy of issues that afflict the river that the states share as a border.

A joint-state Savannah River Basin Water Caucus, made up of legislators from counties that border the river, hopes to stave off lengthy and costly legal wrangling that South Carolina officials have threatened to take against Georgia recently over how much of the water each state gets to use.

The caucus and onlookers gathered on a small peninsula that juts into the lake in Hartwell, Ga., as Gov. Nikki Haley and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal



A long delayed study of how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages the Savannah River basin has long been sought by Lake Hartwell residents concerned about outflows during drought. (STAFF FILE)

SOUTH: SCE&G TO INCREASE ELECTRIC RATES BY 3%. B1



CHARLESTONSCENE
E18-20

'Scotland for the Day'
at Boone Hall



LINCOLN rallies around
little team that could. **SPORTS, C1**

The Post and Courier

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THURSDAY, September 19, 2013

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'Just treading water'

Most earn less than before recession; S.C. among states in worst shape



"You read in the paper that things are going great, but it doesn't feel that way," said Jen Main at Harris Teeter on Savannah Highway.

BY DAVID SLADE
dslade@postandcourier.com

If it feels like the Great Recession didn't really end during the summer of 2009, the latest reports on income in the U.S. put some hard numbers on the reason why.

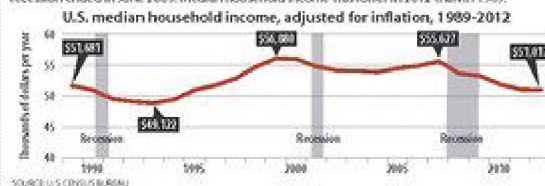
More than three years after the recession ended, most households are earning less than they did before it began. In fact, most households had less inflation-adjusted income last year than before the 1990-91 recession.

And if that's not bad enough, South Carolina has seen a greater drop in real income than most states during the past dozen years, according to a Census Bureau report released this morning.

Please see **WAGES**, Page A7

Income stagnation

New U.S. Census Bureau data says most households have seen little economic recovery since the recession ended in June 2009. Median household income was lower in 2012 than in 1989.



POLL: Are you taking home less pay now than you were about 10 years ago? Find this story on postandcourier.com to vote.

READ MORE! For an interactive graphic that shows census figures for poverty and the trend since 1960, go to postandcourier.com/poverty-interactive.

Tearful ex-worker gets year in theft

Law firm embezzler who now has cancer says she's 'truly sorry'

BY JOHN P. McDERMOTT
jmcdermott@postandcourier.com

On one side was an admitted embezzler and doting mom struggling with a recent cancer diagnosis.

On the other was a betrayed victim and former longtime employer, a Mount Pleasant lawyer who had treated her like family.

One pleaded for leniency. The other asked for justice.

The guilty party is Amanda Elizabeth Michel, 35, who now goes by Amanda Shealy. She was in federal court in Charleston for sentencing Wednesday.

Shealy acknowledged that she siphoned off money for years while working for attorney Mark Mason and his Mason Law Firm, even after she learned she had tapped into his savings and put his home at risk to pay employees when times got tough.

"I'm not the person I was back then," she told District Court Judge Richard Gergel, sobbing. "I was lost and broken."

Please see **MICHEL**, Page A6



Amanda E. Michel is thought to have taken at least \$224,800 between 2003 and 2010.

Leaks displace scholars

200 honor students affected at C of C

BY DIANE KINICH
dkinich@postandcourier.com

The College of Charleston is scrambling to find places on and near campus to house 200 of its best and brightest students who must move out of their dorms in the next few weeks while the facilities undergo extensive renovations.

Last week, a water leak from the ceiling in a hallway on the third floor of the Rutledge Rivers Residence Hall forced school leaders to evacuate 28 students, placing some in rare available rooms in other dorms and the rest at a downtown hotel. When workers examined the ceiling, they found the leaking and condensation problems were more pervasive than they first thought.

Rutledge Rivers is connected by a

Please see **DORMS**, Page A5

"This was a seven-second mistake that is nationally defining my Miss America experience, seven seconds where I compromised my values."

BROOKE MOSTELLER

Miss S.C. was reluctant to use mobile home quip

Regrets remark, says she's learned lesson

BY DAVE MUNDAY
dmunday@postandcourier.com

Miss South Carolina Brooke Mosteller said she didn't come up with her controversial joke about mobile homes at the Miss America pageant Sunday, and she wishes she had paid attention to her instincts that told her it was a bad idea.

"The state organization wrote it for me, and when I first heard it, I thought

Video

For video of the intro statement, find this story at postandcourier.com.

of course I can't say that, because it could be taken as demeaning and insensitive," said Mosteller, who lives in Mount Pleasant. "But everybody

Please see **PAGANT**, Page A6



Miss South Carolina Brooke Mosteller, seen at a pageant earlier this year, raised eyebrows with an introductory remark she made at Sunday's Miss America competition.



Partly sunny
High 63, Low 63
Complete 5-day
forecast. **B5**

Bridges...F4
Business...B6
Classified...D1
Games...J26-29

Construction...E17
Editorial...A10
Movies...F9
Obituaries...B4

The South...B1
Sports...C1
Sudoku...J24
Television...E30

Charleston Deals today

Legare Farms

Half off gate admission, maze tickets for 4, plus 1 small bag of animal feed. Pay \$15 for a \$30 value. See **A2**

**CLEMSON:** Tigers are counting on Adam Humphries, **C1****FED SURPRISE**

In a move that sends the stock market soaring, the Federal Reserve decides the stimulus is still needed, **B4**

INCOMES SHRINK IN S.C.

From Staff Reports

If your wallet feels lighter than it did 12 years ago, you're not alone. South Carolinians are struggling with shrinking incomes compared with 2000, a new U.S. Census Bureau report shows.

The state — and neighbors North Carolina and Georgia — fared worse than the U.S. average in the report.

Why the Palmetto State woes? The state is struggling to regain jobs lost during the Great Recession, particularly in rural areas. Also, some South Carolinians either have dropped out of the labor force or are stuck in low-paying service jobs, an economist said.

A sampling of what the report showed:

-10.9%

Amount the median S.C. household income shrank from 2000 to 2012. Median income was **\$43,167** last year, compared with **\$48,401** in 2000 — a **\$5,294-a-year** drop in household budgets before inflation. Nationally, the decrease was **\$3,659** for the period.

837,770

Number of S.C. residents living in poverty in 2012. That is nearly **300,000** more than in 2000. Now, **18.3 percent** of South Carolinians live in poverty versus **14.4 percent** in 2000. Nationwide, **15.9 percent** of Americans live in poverty versus **12.2 percent** in 2000.

To find out more,
go to Page B4

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Miss SC is sorry about the mobile homes joke, **A2**

The State

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 | THESTATE.COM

COLUMBIA'S GOVERNMENT

A Dec. 3 vote on strong mayor?

Petition still a wild card; referendum split from November council election

By CLIF LeBLANC
cbleblanc@thestate.com

Columbians might get to vote Dec. 3 on changing the city's form of government if a citizens' petition drive forces a referendum. City Council decided Wednesday night in yet another close vote.

There were not enough votes to put a referendum on the November ballot.

Councilman Sam Davis again cast the deciding 4-3 vote that separates the Nov. 5 City Council elections from a strong-mayor referendum. Last week, Davis voted for a decision on the form of government in November.

"I personally can live with it in November or

SEE MAYOR PAGE A5

USC OFFERS STATE A DEAL

University of South Carolina president Harris Pastides addresses students and faculty Wednesday morning during his state of the university address on the Horseshoe.



Tuition freeze eyed

Action would be in exchange for more funding from General Assembly

By ANDREW SHAIN
ashain@thestate.com

Key S.C. lawmakers said they want more details before agreeing to the University of during his annual state of the

INSIDE

Details of the proposed plan.
Page A5

GAMBLING TRIAL

Irmo bookie, 2 others guilty

Federal judge will sentence trio in three months

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
nphillips@thestate.com

A jury found an Irmo bookie, his father and their associate guilty Wednesday of running an illegal gambling operation after deciding their sports book included more than five participants.

Brett Parker, Jack Parker and Douglas E. Taylor will be sentenced in about three months by U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie. Each faces up to five years in prison and fines.

**B. Parker****J. Parker****Taylor**

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, September 19, 2013

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INSIDE TODAY



Aiken experiences influx of sandwich shops
Local News, 2A



Habitat for Humanity breaks new ground
Local News, 2A



Extravaganza educates seniors on services
Local News, 3A



PEP grant awarded to Jefferson teacher
Local News, 3A

Never Forget ride coming to Aiken County
Local News, 3A

AREA DEATHS

Barbara A. Bell, Springfield
Eckhardt Otto Kipar, North Augusta
Michael "Mike" D. Moseley Sr., Rincon, Ga.
Thomas Alfred "Joe Joe" Curtis Jr., Augusta
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Behind the curtain at Aiken Playhouse



Pictured is part of the 1978 cast of the "Last of the Red Hot Lovers." Bruce Hancock is surrounded by Joan Silverberg, left, Gabbi Petersen and Marda Harris.

BY STEPHANIE TURNER
sturner@aikenstandard.com

Mike Gibbons still remembers the first play he saw at the Aiken Community Playhouse.

It was in 1977, and Carol Harris was undertaking the title role in the musical "Peter Pan."

Now, more than three decades later, Gibbons is the executive director of the Playhouse.

He has performed in and seen several productions, some with his children Parker and Allie.

"I love being in a show as much as I love watching a show," Gibbons said. "I'm consistently amazed with the talent that is drawn into Playhouse productions."

Before the 1950s, this "talent" had nowhere to perform in Aiken.

Two men noticed this and thought a change was in order. Will Cole and Parker Deans, who were both with the Savannah River Plant, now known as the Savannah River Site, came together with other community members. From this collaboration, the Aiken Community Playhouse was born.

In November 1952, "George Washington Slept Here" premiered at the Aiken Municipal Auditorium, according to the Aiken Standard. Cole was the director.

Moving locations

Today, audiences pile into the URS



Completion of part of the Aiken Community Playhouse's first theater was marked by the Playhouse production of "The Fantasticks" in March 1971.

Center for Performing Arts on Newberry Street to see the plays.

That was not always the case, according to the article Cole wrote.

When the theater company first formed, it performed out at the Aiken Municipal Auditorium and the Aiken Junior High Auditorium.

However, "as the Playhouse neared the end of its second decade, the need for a more permanent home was growing more acute," Cole wrote.

So, in 1968, Deans joined with Harry Schutte, John Creadick and Fred Ryder to find the funds needed to complete this mission.

In 1974, the project was complete, according to Cole's article. The Aiken Community Playhouse — or ACP — was now in a tin building at Virginia Acres Park, according to ACP board of directors member Thurmond Whitley.

Choose the news

Aiken Standard readers got the chance to play assignment editor in August in a "Choose the News" online poll. Visitors to the poll were asked to pick five stories they most wanted to see in their hometown newspaper. This selection, the History of the Aiken Community Playhouse, concludes the "Choose the News" series.

The company stayed at the park for many years, even celebrating its 100th show there, according to an article written by Playhouse volunteer Jamie Turner.

Please see ACP, Page 5A

Savannah River Caucus inks agreement for river studies

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

HARTWELL, Ga. — The binate Savannah River Caucus met on Wednesday to sign an agreement to continue a comprehensive study of the Savannah River Basin

and Georgia. The group inked the document in Hartwell and will now study the drought conditions in the river basin.

"We're going to analyze drought conditions south of Thurmond Dam," said Col. Thomas Tickner, commander of the Savannah District U.S.

army one step closer to a more comprehensive study of our river."

According to Tickner, the study will be followed by a larger study of the entire basin to give the caucus a better understanding of problems along the river. One of the major problems the caucus will be looking



SCE&G rate hike approved

State regulators OK'd 3 percent rate increase

BY MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — State regulators on Wednesday approved a request by South Carolina Electric and Gas to increase its electric rates by about 3 percent, a move that would help pay the costs of building two new nuclear reactors.

The increase approved by the state Public Service Commission goes into effect Oct. 30. The change means that residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity would see their bills increase \$4.17 per month, to \$142.28.

SCE&G asked for the increase in June, its sixth such request in four years. Many of those increases are to pay the \$10 billion needed to build a pair of nuclear reactors at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station in Fairfield County, about 30 miles northwest of Columbia.

SCE&G, which will jointly own the reactors with state-owned utility Santee Cooper, is funding 55 percent of the roughly \$10 billion project.

As of August, the two utilities had spent a combined \$3.5 billion so far on the reactors. At that time, SCE&G's estimate of its total cost was \$5.8 billion, or nearly \$550 million below initial forecasts in 2009.

Please see SCE&G, Page 5A

USCA professors discuss Syria's instability

BY ROB NOVIT
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

The internal conflicts within Syria should not be a surprise to anyone, USC Aiken professor Dr. Roger Deal told students and visitors during a panel discussion on campus on Tuesday.

"There is so much destruction, and there are a lot of reasons for that," said Deal, a history professor. "There was so much political oppression for so long, and it has built up a lot of pressure. When it needed to get out, international involvement started."

He was joined on the panel by mathematics Chairman Mohammad Hailat and political science professor Dr. Tom Wood. They called their discussion "Disunited Arab Republics: The Ongoing Crisis in Syria and Egypt."

Syria's discord has drawn headlines throughout the world, especially with the accusations and condemnation for the use of deadly chemical



Life in pictures

'Snapshot Spartanburg' shows the city through the eyes of 100 residents escape

Herald-Journal

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5 Things to read today



Water Wise garden

A new Water Wise garden, financed through a \$5,450 Spartanburg Water grant, has been created for visitors to learn about erosion and explore various types of regional plants and is part of a larger effort to make Hatcher Garden a public botanical garden and woodland preserve. **PAGE C1**

Sense of security

Despite the obvious security, twice in less than four years, a person with permission to be there has passed through the layers of protection at a U.S. base and opened fire, destroying the sense of security at the installations that embody the most powerful military in the world. **PAGE A3**

Starbucks and guns

Starbucks has always set itself apart by taking strong positions on progressive political issues. Now that reputation has landed the company in the middle of the heated national debate over gun laws. **PAGE A4**

Fed surprise

In a surprise that sent the stock market soaring, the Federal Reserve concluded Wednesday that the U.S. economy isn't yet healthy enough for the central bank to ease its stimulus even slightly. The Fed's cautious message pleased investors. **PAGE A7**

Fate of park, ball field up in the air



A view of the scoreboard at Berry Field off South Cleveland Park Drive in Spartanburg. An upcoming public hearing will determine the fate of the field.

Community input sessions planned

By FELICIA KITZMILLER
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

In the coming weeks, Spartanburg residents will be asked to help decide the future of Berry Field and Cleveland Park.

Both of the parks are scheduled for renovations in 2014.

On the Cleveland Park side, playground equipment demolished in 2011 will be replaced using a \$50,000 grant from the Mary Black Foundation and matching funds the parks department is raising. There will also be various repairs to drainage and lighting at the

park. Across Asheville Highway, the baseball stadium at Berry Field is scheduled to be demolished and replaced with green space and possible multipurpose fields.

The Berry Field portion of the project became contentious last month when people began coming forward to protest the demolition of the field. Berry Field was constructed in the late 1930s and was a gem of Spartanburg's fast-pitch softball community from the 1950s to the 1970s. Hundreds of ball players from across the Southeast visited the downtown field for tournaments for decades. One Spartanburg team that regularly played

◆ SEE FIELD PAGE A7

Taking flight



PHOTOS BY TIM KIMZEY/TIM.KIMZEY@SHJ.COM

Monarch butterflies are released during the Spartanburg Regional Foundation's fourth annual Wings of Hope celebration at the Bearden-Josey Center for Breast Health Garden at Spartanburg Regional on Wednesday evening. More than 150 butterflies were released as a "symbol of hope and transformation," according to Kristy Caradori, executive director of the Spartanburg Regional Foundation. At left, Cori Church, 11, of Spartanburg, holds a trio of butterflys as they ready themselves for flight.

To see a photo gallery from the event,



To the brink again?

Republicans offer help on looming govt. shutdown if Obamacare killed

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans vowed Wednesday to pass legislation that would prevent a partial government shutdown and avoid a historic national default while simultaneously canceling out President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, inaugurating a new round of political brinkmanship as critical deadlines approach.

Obama swiftly condemned the effort as attempted political extortion, and the Republican-friendly Chamber of Commerce pointedly called on lawmakers to pass urgent spending and borrowing legislation — unencumbered by debate over "Obamacare."

The two-step strategy announced by House Speaker John Boehner marked a concession to his confrontational rank and file. At the same time, it represented a challenge to conservatives inside the Senate and



Coffee chain
joins the debate
about guns, 8A

Sports: Coleman Self verbally commits
to play golf for Clemson, 1B

State: Prosecutor testifies on health care, 3A

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

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INDEX-JOURNAL

VOL. 95, NO. 148

Bishop asks case be reconsidered

Filings argue judge made fundamental errors in ruling regarding SC Episcopal churches



MARK
LAWRENCE

By **BRUCE SMITH**
Associated Press

CHARLESTON — U.S. District Judge C. Weston Houck was asked to reconsider his dismissal of a federal lawsuit arising from the Episcopal schism in eastern South Carolina.

Houck last month dismissed

the action brought by Bishop Charles vonRosenberg and ruled the legal issues should be settled in state court. The bishop represents parishes remaining with the national Episcopal Church following last year's schism.

vonRosenberg asked the court to block Bishop Mark Lawrence, heading parishes that left, from

using the name and symbols of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.

Lawrence and many parishes in the conservative diocese separated from the more liberal national church. Those parishes then sued in state court to protect use of the diocesan name and a half-billion dollars in property.

In court documents filed Monday, vonRosenberg asked Houck to reconsider his decision dismissing the federal case.

The filing argues Houck made two fundamental errors — applying the wrong legal precedent to the case and finding that vonRosenberg's federal complaint parallels the state court

action.

"In the interests of efficiency and judicial economy, Bishop vonRosenberg presents these errors for the court's reconsideration prior to re-filing this action or appealing to the Fourth Circuit," the documents said.

See **CHURCHES**, page 4A



EDUCATION IN THE LAKELANDS

PUSHING EXCELLENCE

Greenwood Christian School senior Melissa Beggs takes a chemistry test Wednesday. She took the ACT last year and scored a 27, a score that qualified her for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

MATT WALSH
INDEX-JOURNAL



Greenwood ACT scores get boost

By **MICHELLE LAXER**
mlaxer@indexjournal.com

Recent ACT test scores for one Greenwood public school system and one private school topped the state's average 2013 score, according to data released last month.

Greenwood School District 50's average ACT composite score for 2013 was the highest of the local public schools at 20.7. Trailing closely behind were Ware Shoals with a 2013 average composite of 19.9; Ninety Six with an average composite of 19.8; and Abbeville with an average composite of 19.

"Our district is very pleased with our students' performance on the 2013 ACT test. District 50 students scored above the state in the subject areas of English, math, reading and science," Superintendent Darrell Johnson said in a statement.

The national average composite score for all students was 20.9, a decrease of 0.2 points from 2012, the state Department of Education reported. The South Carolina all-students average composite score was 20.4, up from 2012 by 0.2 points.

Greenwood Christian School boasted an average 2013 ACT composite score above the state and national average with 24.9.

"You can see from the results that we are 3 to 7 points higher throughout the subject tests. This difference demonstrates that GCS scored 17 to 36 percent higher compared to the

SAVANNAH RIVER BASIN

Ga., SC governors meet on water issues

By **BILL BARROW**
Associated Press

HARTWELL, Ga. — Governors and lawmakers from South Carolina and Georgia promised a new cooperation on water management in the Savannah River Basin.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and his South Carolina counterpart, Nikki Haley, headlined a meeting of elected officials, conservationists and Army Corps of Engineers representatives Wednesday at Lake Hartwell, a man-made reservoir near the beginning of the Savannah River that divides the two states.

Officials signed an agreement to update drought management plans for the basin, the latest phase of a long-term study of Savannah River management financed by the federal government and both states.

Col. Thomas Tickner, commander of the Corps' Savannah District that manages Lake Hartwell and other reservoirs, said the next phase will reassess "the minimum environmentally acceptable release" from reservoirs amid drought conditions.

The larger purpose Wednesday was mostly symbolic, as the governors and legislators said they hoped the new spirit prevents future water litigation.

"That's the worst place to settle our differences," Deal said, adding compacts and communication are the way "to take advantage of what has been granted to us by God and by nature."

Haley said "competition will always be there" in economic development. But, she added, "We are better together every day of the week than we are separately."

The flooding Savannah River Basin Caucus, formed by members of the general assemblies from both states, sponsored the event. The group was formed during drought conditions that exacerbated differences among varying interest groups along the river.



NIKKI
HALEY

THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL PREVIEW:

Clemson plays N.C. State, Crestwood takes on South Florence



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS

Residents win rezoning battle

Developers withdraw Oswego Highway proposal after petition

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
bmarchant@theitem.com

Developers have dropped their request to rezone almost 30 acres on Oswego Highway after the proposal drew a challenge from residents in the

surrounding neighborhood.

Wen-Le Corp. had previously requested to rezone the undeveloped property to "multi-family residential," which could have allowed for an apartment building or subdivision to be developed on the site. But the de-

velopment company dropped that proposal at Tuesday's Sumter City Council meeting after neighbors submitted a petition to the Sumter City-County Planning Department opposing the request.

Planning Director George Mc-

Gregor told council members that his department received a petition dated Sept. 10 signed by 54 residents of the streets east of Bagnal Drive, whose properties border the 29.75-acre site

SEE OSWEGO, PAGE A8

Money in place for training center

Federal government provides final funds for \$10M project

BY BRADEN BUNCH
bbunch@theitem.com

A new training center for Central Carolina Technical College is fully funded after the federal government announced it would be providing about a quarter of the necessary funds for the project.



HARDEE

Last week, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration announced it was awarding a \$2.5 million grant to help fund the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training Center for the local technical college. This, coupled with the \$7 million allocated by the South Carolina General Assembly during the past two years for the workforce development project, should bring the training center to its initial funding target.

"This grant is an indication that the U.S. Department of Commerce considers Sumter to be a great investment," said Dr. Tim Hardee, President of Central Carolina Technical College.

Hardee said he expects the new Broad Street training center to be up and running sometime in mid-2014 and that the building near the corner of Bultman Drive should have visible renovation activity soon.



STYLING and PROFILING



PHOTOS BY BRISTOW MARCHANT / THE ITEM

ABOVE: Model heads display some of the wigs and other accessories offered to women undergoing treatment for cancer at a recent Chemo with Style meeting. Part support group, part beauty salon, Chemo with Style helps women going through chemotherapy feel good about their appearance. **TOP LEFT:** Susan Heimbigner, left, displays some of the caps made and donated by the Sparkle Caps Project for women undergoing cancer treatment. Cheryl Fluharty, community educator with Hospice Care of Tri-County, also tries on one of the caps at last week's meeting of Chemo with Style.

Chemo with Style is all about feeling good

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
bmarchant@theitem.com

Along with all the other stresses and hardships cancer patients must endure when undergoing chemotherapy, many have to come to terms with losing their hair.

for women, who still want to feel attractive, even while going through the physical changes their disease and radiation inflict on them.

The women at Chemo with Style can't take away a patient's cancer, but they do try to make her feel better about the way she looks.

WANT TO GO?

Anyone who wants to attend a Chemo with Style meeting is asked to call (803) 905-7720 to make a reservation.

beauty salon, Chemo with Style recently started meeting on the second Thursday of every month at

Crays Mill Road. Women going through cancer treatment are invited to get beauty tips and wig stylings as well as share medical information in a setting that's a little more relaxed than a doctor's office.

"Here they can be more



Morning News

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny, nice this afternoon, high 82, low 58

DETAILS 2A

www.9news.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



Kathy Heffley, community bank president at Wells Fargo Capital Finance, introduces Jack, the Wells Fargo dog, to attendees at Wells Fargo's fourth annual community giving breakfast Wednesday at Victor's Bistro in downtown Florence.

Help they can bank on

Wells Fargo gives to 14 nonprofits in the Pee Dee

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — For Daphne Tedder, \$1,000 means keeping the lights, gas and water on at the Manna House.

For Susan Goldstein, it means covering the cost of one child through both the school year and summer at a local Boys and Girls Club.

These are just two examples of what the 14 recipients can do with the individual, \$1,000 donations from Pee Dee area Wells Fargo banks that were handed out Wednesday at Victor's Bistro by Kathy Heffley, community bank president at Wells Fargo Capital Finance, branch managers and other bank leaders.

"The reality is we know budgets are cut, people are volunteering their time, working harder with less than what they had," Heffley said. "It's been tough over the past few years. It's been very tough on these groups, but they continue to do what they do every day and do a better job every day so if there's any way to help



Executive director Daphne Tedder of the Manna House receives a \$1,000 check from Florence Wells Fargo Manager Debra Poston. The breakfast Wednesday brought together general managers and executives from Pee Dee branches as well as representatives from nonprofit groups that received \$1,000 checks from the branches as part of a community giving initiative.

them out, we're more than happy to do it."

Heffley oversees 42 branches from the Midlands to the Pee Dee with 600 employees that also donated 25,000 volunteer hours last year.

"We're part of our communities, we live in our communities, we work in our communities. We want our communities to thrive," Heffley said. "If our communities are thriving, we're going to thrive as well."

Tedder, executive director at the Florence Manna House, said donated food

remains in good supply for the soup kitchen that serves two hot meals a day, but monetary donations help her feed the operation's \$150,000 annual budget.

"We're not government-funded or state-funded. It's all grants or donations from individuals or businesses," Tedder said. "It's (\$1,000) a lot of money. This is a lot of money because if you're constantly spending and not putting back, you're going to go in the hole."

See **BANK**, Page 6A

Foundation makes big investment in Habitat

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The latest Habitat for Humanity build got a big boost recently with a \$20,000 donation from the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation.

In addition to the contribution, Wells Fargo pledged volunteer support and financial advising to be included in homeowner education curriculum.

"Not only has Wells Fargo funded a portion of this build, they will also host classes for fiscal responsibility, which will be included in the homeowner education curriculum, and employees will have the opportunity to get involved by serving on a construction work team," said Jessica Brown, executive director for Greater Florence Habitat for Humanity. "This is a true partnership between our organizations, not just a traditional monetary gift."

The contribution will help

See **HABITAT**, Page 6A

Fed: US economy still needs more help

Monthly bond purchases will keep stimulus going

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve isn't yet convinced that the U.S. economy is healthy enough for the Fed to ease its stimulus even slightly.

The Fed's cautious message Wednesday surprised — and pleased — investors, who had expected a slight cut in the Fed's \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases. Wall Street celebrated the prospect of continued low interest rates by

sending stocks surging to a record high.

INSIDE
» Stock market sets record after Fed keeps stimulus. 8A

In a statement after a policy meeting, the Fed said it has no set timetable for reducing its stimulus. It all depends how the economy fares.

Chairman Ben Bernanke explained later at a news conference that there are good reasons for the Fed to be cautious about slowing a bond-purchase program that's designed to keep long-term rates ultra-low:

» The Fed has yet to see conclusive evidence that the job market and economy are approaching full health.

» Rates on mortgages have surged, and the Fed's bond purchases are needed to hold those rates down and keep home buying affordable for ordinary people.

» A budget stalemate in Congress and the threat of a government shutdown as soon as next month are holding back growth and putting the economy at risk.

"Conditions in the job market today are still far from what all of us would like to see," Bernanke said at his news conference.

See **FED**, Page 6A

Bernanke's future?

During a news conference after the meeting Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke continued to dodge all questions about his own future. It is widely expected that he will step down when his current term as chairman ends on Jan. 31. But he has not publicly stated this intention. "If you will indulge me just a little longer, I prefer not to talk about my plans," Bernanke told a questioner. But he said he hoped to have information to divulge "soon."



Florence political talk show host Bill Pickle, host of "In the Pickle Barrel," poses for a picture in his new home radio studio on Tuesday. Pickle recently was



Pickle receives recognition for adoption, foster care advocacy

Sen. Graham bestows national honor on local radio host

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
jrussell@florencenews.com

INSIDE

» Pickle to stick with his radio show. 5A

**POWERBALL**

Wednesday's numbers are ...

7 10 22 32 35 19

South Carolina, Georgia lottery results, A3

TIGER FANS GET READY!

CLEMSON FACES WOLFPACK
TONIGHT AT 7:30 ON ESPN
COVERAGE ON B1 AND B4



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA



TheTandD.com

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THE HUNT IS ON

TSO CORRESPONDENT MARY H. YARBOROUGH
It took six members of the Eutaw Garden Club — from left, Sandy Graham, Judy Fletcher, Maureen Bell, Donna O'Rourke and, behind the tree not shown, Ruby Mims and Jackie Kelly — to measure this 312-year-old live oak, located adjacent to the Eutawville Fire Department on Dawson Street.

Eutaw Garden Club seeks grandest historical tree

By MARY H. YARBOROUGH
T&D Correspondent

It was about 80 years old when 700 British and 500 American Colonial soldiers perished nearby in one of the bloodiest battles marking the end of the Revolutionary War.

The 312-year-old live oak that stands adjacent to the Eutawville Fire Department on Dawson Street may be the oldest and big-

gest among the state's oldest, the Eutaw Garden Club, founded in 1930, undertook the historic tree search as part of the 2014 South Carolina Garden Club project, Historic Trees for Historic Places.

Launched in April, the historic tree project encourages citizens to seek, identify and document any tree that may be associated with a historic site or event, or hold some sentimental, noteworthy or special value.

In South Carolina, where battle grounds

HOW OLD IS YOUR TREE?

To determine the age of a tree, wrap a measuring tape around the tree about 54 inches from the base. This would provide the circumference or girth of the tree at the spot indicating the best set of so-called age rings.

Once the circumference is determined, divide that number by 3.14 (pi), then multiply that number by the growth rate of the tree.

Live oaks have an annual growth rate of four feet. Longleaf pines and red cedars are slow-growing at rates of between a foot to two feet a year.

For information on different trees and their growth rates, see the Arbor

Without vaccines students to be out

District 4 eyes having to remove 7th-graders not vaccinated

By DALE UNDERALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

Some seventh-graders might be removed from school by the end of September if they haven't received the Tdap vaccine against three deadly diseases.

Orangeburg Consolidated School District 4 Assistant Superintendent Larry Wolfe told school trustees Tuesday that at last count, 78 students in the district have not taken the vaccine as required by state law.

"They were given a 30-day extension at the beginning of school," he said. "Some of these extensions are going to start running out at the end of September and we'll have no choice but to remove students from school. Otherwise, the district could be fined \$250 per day, per child."

This is the first year the vaccine, which protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, or whooping cough, is being required for all seventh-graders.

District 4 isn't the only one in the state having problems getting students vaccinated, according to S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Mark Plowden.

"Some of the districts are calling for help," he said. According to Plowden, 240 students have not received their shots in Orangeburg County.

However, he noted that extra clinics will be held locally and across the state. There's still time to get it done, he said.

The Centers for Disease Control see seventh-graders as a special risk group for contracting the three diseases, Plowden said.

They get the shot when they're younger, but by the time they reach the seventh grade, their immunity is wearing off, he said.

Wolfe reported that the district has been trying to get the message out to parents since last

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