

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
To:  
Date: 7/21/2014 11:03:35 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, July 21, 2014

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## **SC Front Pages – Monday, July 21, 2014**



## SPORTS 3RD MAJOR FOR MCILROY



## LIFESTYLE Making pets feel at home

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

MONDAY,  
JULY 21, 2014  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY U.S., EUROPE PUSH FOR NEW RUSSIA SANCTIONS PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

## Legislators to debate autopsy question

Public access, right to privacy at odds

By Tim Smith  
Staff writer  
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — Whether autopsy reports should be made public will be debated next year by lawmakers, say some legislative leaders who believe a compromise can be reached over concerns about the disclosure of medical information.

The South Carolina Supreme Court

ruled last week that autopsy reports are medical records and therefore exempt from disclosure under the state's open records law.

Advocates for open records and government criticized the ruling as another blow for citizens who want more government oversight and transparency.

"I believe we can craft a statute that would protect someone's medical history that doesn't have anything to do with the death, particularly in a case like this where you had a justifiable reason for the public needing to know about the autopsy results," Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Larry Martin of Pickens told

The Greenville News.

House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister, a Greenville lawyer, said he can understand how family members wouldn't want autopsy reports of a loved one being publicly released.

"I think that would be an issue we may look at and balance the different interests, one being the public oversight of things especially when a state entity is involved in the death," he said.

"On the other hand, I would be sensitive to the idea that families would not want that information getting out and being made public. That will be something we will have a debate about, for sure."

Bill Rogers, executive director of the S.C. Press Association, said the autopsy reports issue is about citizens knowing what their government is doing, including law enforcement.

"This case was really about public oversight, and the public lost," he said about the justices' decision. "This is a terrible ruling that will allow coroners to withhold information the public has a need to know."

He said autopsy reports had been routinely released in the state, and the court's decision is another blow against open

See AUTOPSY, Page 5A



Travis May and fiancée Lindsey Lawson discuss why they chose to rent instead of buy a home. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

## Options added to ease biking to work in Greenville

By Nathaniel Cary  
Staff Writer  
ncary@greenvillenews.com

Keary Warner rides his bicycle nearly every day to his workplace on West Washington Street in Greenville.

When he arrives, Warner wheels his bike inside and lifts it onto a custom-built aluminum bike rack that suspends in the air above the office space at the Railside CoWork.

On any given weekday, his is one of eight or 10 bikes held on the same rack, which was installed about six months ago to make it more convenient for tenants who use the shared office space to bike to work.

Greenville businesses and agencies are stepping up efforts to accommodate bicycle-powered commuters in the workplace as studies show more millennials want access to cleaner, simpler, cheaper modes of transportation to and from work.

Greenville's regional bus system, Greenlink, added four bike lockers - Batmobile-looking molded plastic covers that drape over a bicycle and lock to secure bikes from vandals and thieves - in 2012 in two downtown locations, the Spring Street parking garage and the Greenlink Transfer Center on Richardson Street.

It immediately rented those lockers and has had a waiting list from the first day, said Kathy Vass, a Greenlink spokeswoman.

"We have consistently gotten phone calls from people who wanted to rent them," Vass said. "We quickly saw the need for additional ones."

Greenlink now plans to add 22 more bike lockers throughout downtown Greenville and wants input from bicyclists on the best locations to install the lockers.

The most requested location so far is Falls Park near the Swamp

## Some local young adults delaying homeownership

By Angela Davis  
Staff writer  
davis@greenvilleonline.com

Millennials Wes Lambert and his wife, Lexi, want to buy a home, but for now, they're renting. "With my wife being the only one to work and me being in grad school, we just haven't been in the position to save a whole lot just yet," said Wes, who just graduated from law school. "We're hoping to get there."

Others are also rooting for young adults like the Lamberts to achieve homeownership. That's because first-time buyers are shrinking in number, real estate experts say.

In a normal market, first-time buyers make up about 40 percent of the home buyers, according to the National Association of Realtors. Their most recent data is 27 percent.





Before a doctor checks your vitals, check out theirs. NATION, A7

## Snee Farm holds onto the lead at City Swim Meet

SPORTS, C1

## Former inmate's program gives jump-start to those leaving prison

LOCAL, A3

# The Post and Courier

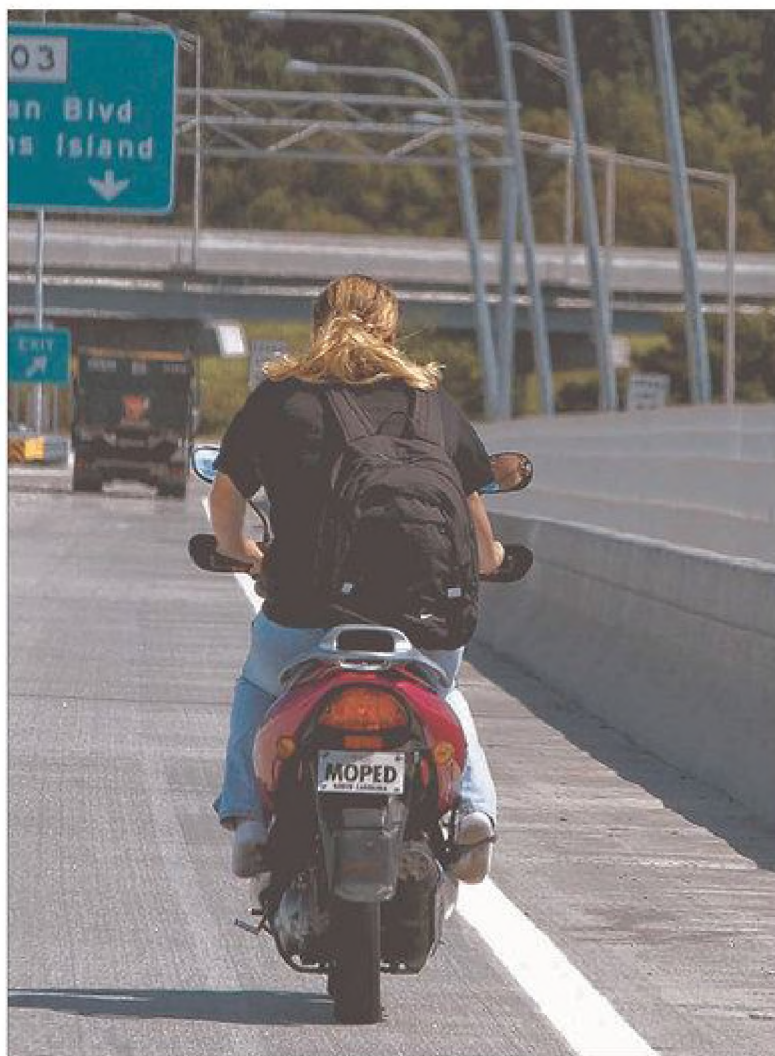
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MONDAY, July 21, 2014

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## Moped safety in spotlight as number of deaths rises



Moped riders have been taking their chances on the Arthur Ravenel Bridge for several years, as in this photo taken in 2005, despite the fact that about everybody agrees it's not a good idea.

BY DAVE MUNDAY  
dmunday@postandcourier.com

Just days after another moped rider was hit on the Ravenel Bridge earlier this month, state safety officials released a report warning that the number of moped deaths are on the rise.

The annual number of moped deaths in South Carolina tripled between 2008 and 2012, mainly because more of them were on the road

each year.

A moped is basically a scooter with a small engine (no bigger than 50 cubic centimeters) that can't go faster than 30 mph, although a moped's legal speed limit is 25 mph, according to state law.

Mopeds often look like faster scooters, but they must have a plate on the back identifying them as mopeds.

Mopeds can ride on any street or road where they are not specifically

prohibited, such as interstates. A moped rider does not need a regular driver's license.

A 14-year-old can ride a moped on public streets. A driver who has lost his license because of a DUI conviction can get a moped license.

Moped owners don't have to pay property taxes or registration and license fees.

Please see **MOPEDS**, Page A4

## Rebels piling bodies in boxcars

U.S. still points to Moscow for downed plane

BY YURAS KARMANAU  
and PETER LEONARD  
Associated Press

TOREZ, UKRAINE — Pro-Moscow rebels piled nearly 200 bodies from the downed Malaysian jetliner into four refrigerated boxcars Sunday in eastern Ukraine, and cranes at the crash scene moved big chunks of the Boeing 777, drawing condemnation from Western leaders that the rebels were tampering with the site.

The United States, meanwhile, presented what it called "powerful" evidence that the rebels shot down the plane with a Russian surface-to-air missile and training. Although other governments have stopped short of accusing Russia of actually causing the crash, the U.S. was ahead of most in pointing blame on Moscow for the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 that killed all 298 people aboard.

Please see **PLANE**, Page A5

## Litton to bring TV, film jobs to state

BY AIGAIL DARLINGTON  
adarlington@postandcourier.com

Until recently, Litton Entertainment has mostly kept its operations in Charleston behind the scenes. The television production company

has been based in Mount Pleasant for the past decade, quietly guiding its network of film makers, writers and editors in Boston, New York and Burbank, Calif.

Now, Dave "Buddy" Morgan, founder and chief executive officer of Litton, has announced that the company is doubling the size of its film production operations, which will bring a major portion of production to the Charleston area. That means it will develop new sound stages and hundreds, if not thousands, of job opportunities for filmmakers, actors and other industry professionals in the Charleston area over the next five years.

Litton already has begun remodeling the former studio ABC used to film "Army Wives" on Dorchester Road in North Charleston. In September, the company will begin filming "The League of Women," Litton's first movie production in the studio.

Please see **LITTON**, Page A5

### Poll

Should the state do more to regulate the use of mopeds?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_  
Story at [postandcourier.com](http://postandcourier.com) to vote.



Thunderstorms... High 85, Low 72... Complete 5-day forecast B6

Business... 01 Editorials... A10 Obituaries... B2 Classifieds... G6 Horoscope... B7 South... B1 Comics... B6, 7 Local News... A2 Sports... C1 Crosswords... B6, G Movies... B5 Interviews... D4

Charleston Deals today

Parson Jack's Cafe  
Pay only \$10 to spend \$20 on food and drink  
See A2





## BRITISH OPEN: McIlroy completes wire-to-wire victory. **B1**

# The State

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

## S.C. HOUSE Finlay, McCulloch ready for rematch

Finlay won District 75 race by a narrow margin in 2012

By CASSIE COPE  
ccope@thestate.com



Finlay



McCulloch

Haley-Sheheen Round 2 isn't the only rematch on the November general election ballot. It might not even be the closest.

Only 308 votes separated Republican state Rep. Kirkman Finlay and Democratic candidate Joe McCulloch in 2012.

And in November, they're back for a rematch, one of a handful of contested S.C. House races in Richland and Lexington counties.

The issues in the Richland County district — parts of Forest Drive, Fort Jackson Boulevard and the Shandon areas as well as the Kings Grant neighborhood — range from ethics to bond reform.

McCulloch says the close 51-49 race last time — when the results were delayed because of a bungled election that left voters waiting in line for hours — means he has a good chance of beating Finlay.

"A number of television stations thought I won it until a couple of days later, when votes appeared from closets and bags of votes that nobody knew existed," McCulloch said. "I'm not only a contender, but I can win this race and intend to."

Finlay is unfazed, saying he

SEE REMATCH PAGE A3

**INSIDE**  
The candidates on issues.  
Page A3

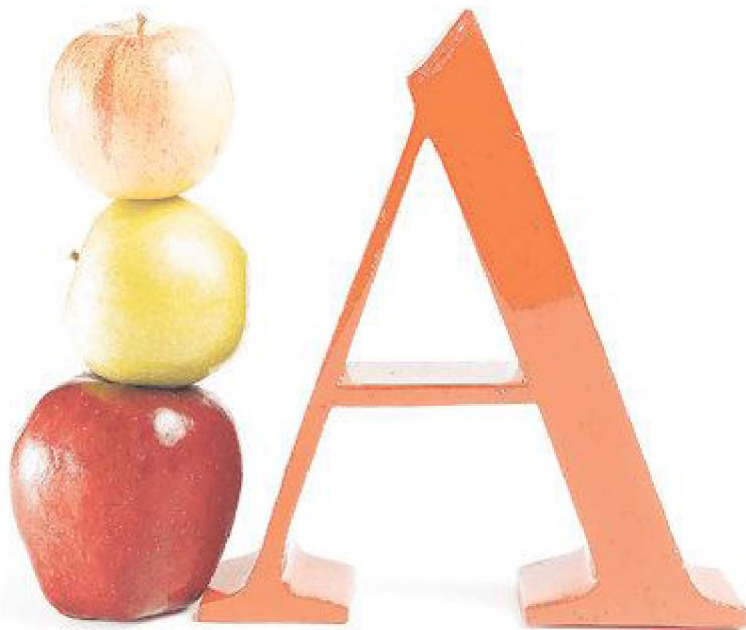
## YOUR WEEK



'Singin' in the Rain' with Gene Kelly, left, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor

Catch the first of many tributes to

## BACK TO SCHOOL



## No more bake sales?

*New rules could  
challenge fundraisers*

By HARRISON CAHILL  
hcahill@thestate.com

The latest round of federal guidelines for healthier food choices could mean fewer biscuits, doughnuts and bake sales for school fundraisers.

The Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition program, which took effect July 1 as part of the Healthy Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010, is tightening restrictions on snacks and beverages sold to students during the school day. Among the new regulations is a requirement that snack items have 200 calories or less. Sodium must be 230 milligrams or less, although that number will drop to 200 milligrams in 2016.

Many Midlands school districts have been working on menu changes in advance of the new regulations, which set limits on calories, fats, sugar and sodium. But officials say fundraising groups could face challenges.

Libby Roof, a spokeswoman for Richland 2, said the district and its food vendor, Sodexo,

have been phasing in healthier food items for four years, but some fundraisers might stop.

"The biggest impact is the food fundraisers. We have PTOs and booster clubs that sell stuff during the school day like biscuits in the car line," Roof said. "You can't do that anymore. Sometimes these food sales are a mainstay for clubs to raise money, so they will have to look for creative ways to raise money because of the law."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture launched major reforms for school meals in 2012 to help children avoid the risk of shorter life expectancies and health problems, which in turn can create a greater economic burden for states, the agency said. Childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past 30 years, and more than one-third of children and adolescents in 2012 were overweight or obese, according to the Centers for Disease Con-

SEE NUTRITION PAGE A4

**INSIDE**  
Details about the new federal rules on school nutrition  
Page A4

## APPRECIATION

Comic gifts made Garner  
the most human of heroes

dealsaver

TODAY'S DEAL





## The Standard 10

Silver Bluff's Drayton makes impact on offense, defense and off the field | 1B

# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, July 21, 2014

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Vol. 148, No. 202 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

## What's next for URS workers No answers on the impact of AECOM purchase

BY DERREK ASBERRY  
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Despite inquiries into the matter, no information has been made available on the job status of URS employees following the company's purchase for

\$4 billion by AECOM Technology Corporation, a Fortune 500 engineering, design firm.

The *Aiken Standard* reached out to both URS and AECOM media affairs on the issue. An unnamed URS source said, in regards to back-

ground information, that there have been several inquiries about jobs. However, company leaders have not released any information on employment yet.

AECOM did not offer comments on employment status either, and

instead directed the *Aiken Standard* to an acquisition sheet on its website that briefly mentions employees.

The sheet reads, "The combined company's 95,000 employees, serving clients in more than 150 countries around the world, create an extraor-

dinary talent pool and experience base that few others, in any industry, can match."

URS has more than 50,000 employees worldwide.

Please see URS, Page 5A

### INSIDE TODAY



Briscoe carries Playaz to Peach Jam title

Sports, 1B



Houndslake resident starts neighborhood association

Local News, 3A

### AREA DEATHS

Imo Jean P. Hensley, Aiken  
Isiah Brown, Salley  
Johnny R. Moore Sr., Ridge Spring  
Mackenzie Webster, Williston  
William Thomas "Tom" Minter III, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER

## Catching someone in a lie



STAFF PHOTO BY TEDDY KULMALA

Investigator Tommy Platt demonstrates a polygraph examination using Capt. Eric Abdullah, pictured, as the examinee. The Aiken County Sheriff's Office conducts about 200 exams per year for both criminal and employment purposes.

## The process of polygraph testing

BY TEDDY KULMALA  
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

Can you handle the truth? Regardless, it's Tommy Platt's job to find it out. Platt, an investigator with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, is also the agency's polygraph examiner.

Also known as a "lie detector test," a polygraph exam measures physiological

reactions from telling a lie. The Sheriff's Office administers polygraph exams as part of the employment process for anyone seeking a job at the agency, but also for criminal investigations.

### How it works

The machine measures a person's

breathing, heart rate and galvanic skin reflex (or sweat gland activity), according to Platt, who has been giving exams for more than six years.

"When you're asked a question or a stimulus, your brain goes to your memory lobe and searches for the answer," Platt said. "If it finds that answer, and you have a memory of

something you've done, it flashes a picture in your head to help you remember details and descriptions."

That process is called mental imaging, he said. If you wanted to lie in response to a question, instead of going with the "memory" side of the brain, you go with the "create" side.

Please see UE, Page 5A

## Bates family provides advice, inspiration

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

CLEARWATER — Lakeside Baptist Church on Jefferson Davis Highway had some very special guests over the weekend: Gil and Kelly Jo Bates, who were joined by 17 of their 19 children.

"We never have a dull moment, I can tell you that," Kelly Jo said. "The Bible says children are a blessing, and they really are. Our hearts are just as full as

sion series, "United Bates of America," which aired on TLC in August and September of 2012. Earlier that year, they were the subject of a TLC special, "The Bates Family: Baby Makes 19."

In addition, the Bateses have appeared on another TLC reality series, "19 Kids & Counting," which is about the Duggar family of Arkansas. Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar also have 19 children.

whose family has been featured recently on the ABC television news show "Nightline Prime." "But it's not about 19 kids. It's about finding God's will for your life, whether you have one kid or 21 kids. I believe in using whatever platform God gives you to further God's work."

The Bateses founded the Bible Baptist Church in Clinton, Tennessee, and it keeps the family busy. Services are held in a hotel conference room on



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES





# RORY RULES BRITISH OPEN

McIlroy becomes the youngest golfer to earn three legs of the Grand Slam B1



# Herald-Journal

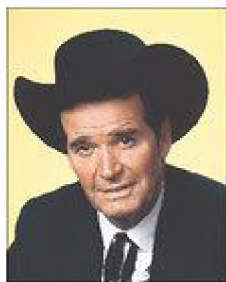
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IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



## James Garner dies

Actor James Garner, known for his work on the 1950s Western "Maverick" and 1970s drama "The Rockford Files," as well as an Oscar-nominated role in the movie "Murphy's Romance," died Saturday night at 86. **PAGE A8**

## Casinos' decline

The rapid disintegration of Atlantic City's casino market might be an early indicator of what could happen in other parts of the country that have too many casinos and not enough gamblers. **PAGE A6**

## Healthier teens

Disadvantaged teenagers might get more than an academic boost by attending top-notch high schools — their health also might benefit, a new study suggests. **PAGE A5**

## A better Detroit

A year after Detroit became the largest U.S. city to seek bankruptcy protection, its neighborhoods are being rebuilt, its vacant homes are being sold off or torn down, its public transportation is clean and on schedule, and the city has renegotiated some burdensome union contracts. **PAGE A9**

## Threat to minority

Iraq's prime minister condemned the Islamic State extremist group's actions targeting Christians in territory it controls, saying they reveal the threat the jihadists pose to the minority community's "centuries-old heritage." **PAGE A10**

# Jet crash victims put in boxcars

Rebels in Ukraine tamper with evidence as West builds case against pro-Russians

By PETER LEONARD  
The Associated Press

TOREZ, Ukraine — Pro-Moscow rebels piled nearly 200 bodies from the downed Malaysian jetliner into four refrigerated boxcars Sunday in eastern Ukraine, and cranes at the crash scene moved big chunks of the Boeing 777, drawing condemnation from Western leaders that the rebels were tampering with the site. The United States, meanwhile, presented

what it called "powerful" evidence that the rebels shot down the plane with a Russian surface-to-air missile and training. Although other governments have stopped short of accusing Russia of actually causing the crash, the U.S. was ahead of most in pointing blame on Moscow for the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 that killed all 298 people aboard.

"Russia is supporting these separatists. Russia is arming these separatists. Russia is training these separatists," Secretary of State John Kerry said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Australia spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone late Sunday, urging him to use his influence on the separatists to ensure the

victims could be repatriated and international investigators could have full access to collect evidence. They said European foreign ministers will meet in Brussels Tuesday to consider further sanctions on Russia.

More than three days after the jetliner crashed, international investigators still had only limited access to the sprawling fields where the plane fell.

British Prime Minister David Cameron, in a blistering opinion piece for the Sunday Times, said "the growing weight of evidence" suggests the rebels shot down the plane, and if that is so, "this is a direct result of Russia destabilizing a

◆ SEE PLANE PAGE A9

# Growing natural on Thicketty Mountain

Family works land for their food, and shares, too

By JENNY ARNOLD  
jennifer.arnold@shj.com

COWPENS Drivers often slow down as they pass by a pasture on Nancy Creek Road in Cherokee County.

In a field across the road, cattle raise their heads, placidly chewing their cud. But passers-by often aren't used to seeing the type of livestock in the neighboring pasture and slow down for a closer look at the 500 or so Thicketty Mountain Farms laying hens and "broiler" chickens scratching, pecking and clucking in the grass.

For small farmers such as Sallie and Brent Belue, the hens are being raised as they should be, their feet touching the earth, the sun overhead as they forage, their feed free of drugs used to pump them up and keep them healthy in overcrowded factory farms.

The hens lay eight to 10 dozen eggs during the hot summer months. Their mobile nesting house, a trailer with straw-lined cubby holes, and a dome-shaped tent for the broilers are moved periodically in the field to keep it fertilized. The hens are guarded by a hulking Great Pyrenees, Hazel, and a puppy protege, Dolly.

In the winter, the chickens are moved to the



YOUNG FARMERS

About this series  
This is the fourth in a series of stories profiling young farmers in Spartanburg County.

# Council to address economic initiatives

By FELICIA KITZMILLER  
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

While some celebrate summer with vacations and lazy days, Spartanburg County Council will tackle a full agenda when it convenes today for its regular monthly meeting in the County Administration building.

Members are expected to address several economic development projects, budgeting issues and have third and final reading on an ordinance to put Sunday alcohol sales at restaurants before voters.

Committee meetings will begin at 4 p.m., following a scheduled hour and a half closed-door session related to contractual and legal matters.

During the economic development committee meeting, members will vote on a resolution to pursue a fee-in-lieu of tax agreement with the undisclosed Project Converter. The committee also will consider a resolution for a fee-in-lieu of tax and incentive agreements for F3 Holdings LLC, a company specializing in manufacturing navigational, measuring and electromedical

◆ SEE COUNTY PAGE A9

## IMMIGRATION

# How overhaul drive was





'The Rockford Files' star James Garner dies, **4A**

# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014

## YMCA planning upgrades to entire campus

By COLIN RIDDLE  
criddle@indexjournal.com

The Greenwood Family YMCA is preparing to make giant steps toward updating its current facilities.

YMCA's board of directors and staff worked with a local architectural firm to develop a master facility plan. The plan consists of multiple phases and will take years to complete. The project encompasses nearly all areas of the organization. The current facility sits on 42 acres, with its gymnastics facility a block away.

Gray Stallworth, executive director of the Greenwood YMCA, would like to see the gymnastics facility join the rest of the facilities.

"We're trying to figure how to use the area we've been blessed with," Stallworth said.

The plan also includes introducing a water park. The Y has been in communication with YMCA of Columbia, whose Orangeburg location includes a large water park. The park includes slides, waterfalls, a lazy river, pools and a pavilion.

Greenwood YMCA has also sought the advice of the Fort Mill Branch of Upper Palmetto YMCA and the Aiken location of the Family YMCA of Greater Augusta, each offering a different design model.

In addition to the waterpark, the aim is to provide better access to the pavilion near the playing fields. A playground could also be added to make the area more family-friendly.

Updates to the 24-year-old building are needed, including roof work, storage space and administrative space.

"We have to figure these things out and make good use of our space," Stallworth said. "How can this facility footprint serve some of the growing needs of what we're experiencing now?"

The Fort Mill YMCA was one of the first branches to install a new water park with upgrades in South Carolina. The project began in 2005 and took four years from concept to completion.

Their original wellness center, which is still in use today, sat on 2 acres at 10,000 square feet. Fort Mills' new facility two miles down the road encompasses 62,000 square feet on 17 acres.

The branch used a low interest loan issued from the Jobs-Economic Development Authority to pay for the

See YMCA, page 4A

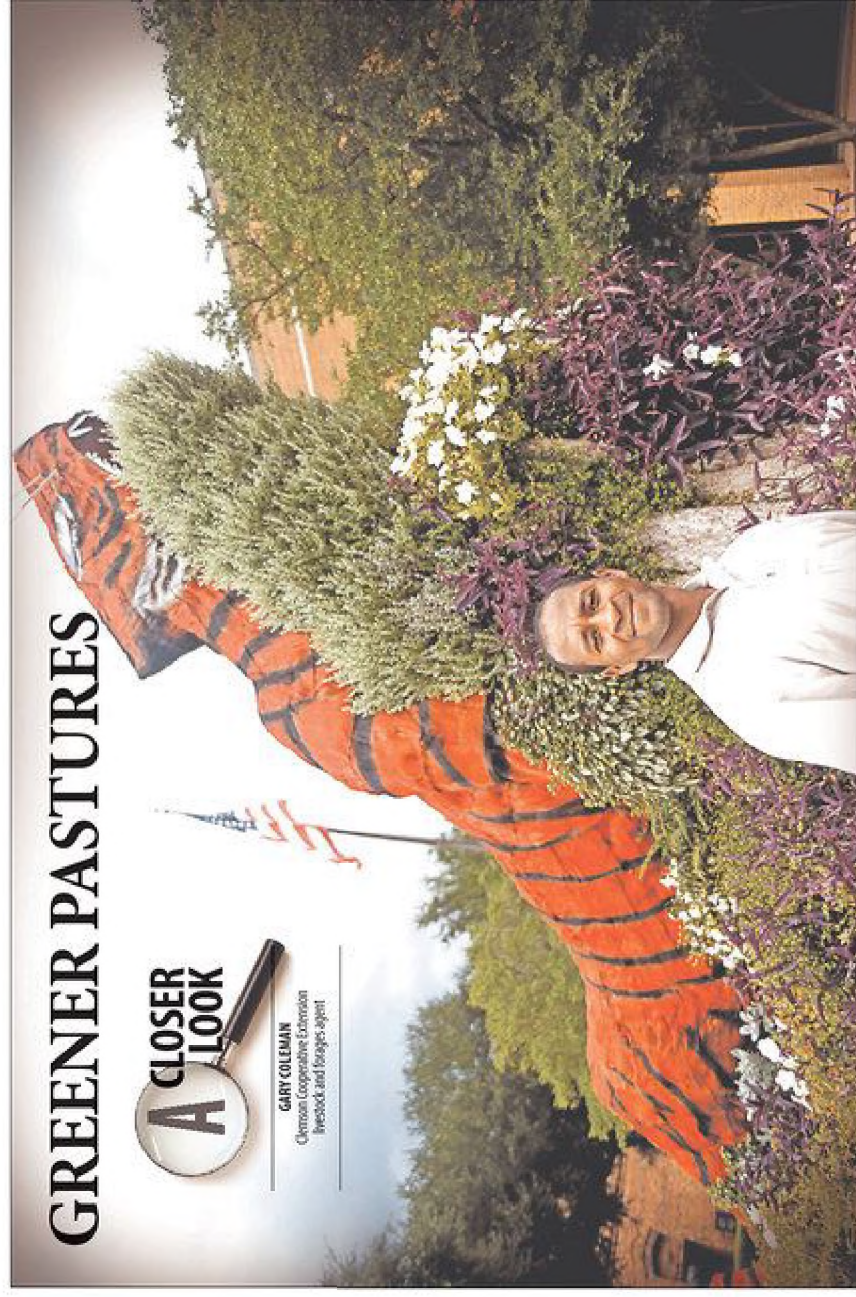


Submitted  
The Upper Palmetto YMCA updated their Fort Mill branch with a low interest loan from the Jobs-Economic Development Authority in 2005. The upgrades included a new wellness center and the addition of a water park.

## GREENER PASTURES

A CLOSER LOOK

GARY COLEMAN  
Clemson Cooperative Extension  
livestock and forages agent



Gary Coleman, the livestock and forages agent with the Clemson Cooperative Extension, stands in front of the Clemson Tiger topiary in Uptown Greenwood.

By MATT BRUCE  
mbruce@indexjournal.com

Gary J. Coleman was 15 years old when he first began working on his own farm. It's a trade he grew to love, feeding calves and baby goats, and nurturing them into fully grown farm animals.

Now the 33-year-old Saluda County native has a livestock operation in Anderson County that includes cattle ranches, a

and forages agent for Clemson University's Cooperative Extension program.

"I enjoy fattening cattle to get them ready to go to the feed yards out west," he said. "Actually, this has been my first real job since I graduated (high school) in 1989. Cattle has always supported me. I've been around this a while, these farm animals. It's going on 20 years now. Man, time flies."

Coleman grew up in a small cul-de-sac on the south end of Saluda County.

lin's land-grant university that provides research-based information and assistance to agricultural producers. The Clemson Cooperative Extension is part of a nationwide network of such offices and is staffed with experts in each respective agricultural specialty. The Clemson Extension consists of offices in all 46 counties in South Carolina. Coleman will manage operations in Greenwood, Abbeville, McCormick and Edgefield counties.



Gary Coleman, the livestock and forages agent with the

## Clemson University's Cooperative Extension welcomes new area livestock and forages agent





TODAY'S  
WEATHERA couple of showers  
and a t-storm.  
High 83, low 70.

DETAILS 2A

## Morning News

MONDAY JULY 21, 2014

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## DARLINGTON COUNTY

## Administrator questions remain

BY GAVIN JACKSON

Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Two weeks ago, the Darlington County Council voted not to renew the contract of County Administrator Dale Surret. Now it will decide its next step at a meeting Monday

evening.

Surret has been under contract with the county since Jan. 4, 2011, but only Councilmen Le Flowers and Wesley Blackwell voted July 7 to renew his contract. Five other council members voted against renewal and one abstained.

Since then, the details of Surret's immediate future with

the county have been unclear, as well as why a majority of the council was against renewing his contract. Now a special meeting Monday will determine how long Surret remains and what, if any, a possible severance package could be.

"What we need to decide is

how we are going to approach this thing with Dale Surret," Blackwell said. "Are we going to continue to let him work until his contract is over or are we going to say, 'We're going to pay you out in your contract and then let you go on to your other employment?' Those are two things we're going to need to be

working on Monday night."

Surret's original yearlong contract was signed Jan. 4, 2011. That contract was then renewed in August 2011 for two years, through Jan. 2, 2014. Had the council terminated or failed to renew his contract last

See SURRET, Page 4A

Hall/Poston  
slaying  
defendant  
gets 12 years

BY TRACI BRIDGES

Morning News  
tbridges@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The last remaining defendant in a drug dealer's plot to kill a local man and woman in 2009 pleaded guilty to his role in the crimes last week and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Kelvin O'Neal, 26, of 2141 Leavenworth Road, Darlington, pleaded guilty to accessory after the fact to murder and possession with intent to distribute cocaine base in connection with the Sept. 1, 2009, shooting deaths of 32-year-old Talya Poston and 26-year-old Billy L. Hall Jr.

Circuit Judge Michael Nettles sentenced O'Neal to 12 years in prison for each crime but ordered that the sentences run concurrently.

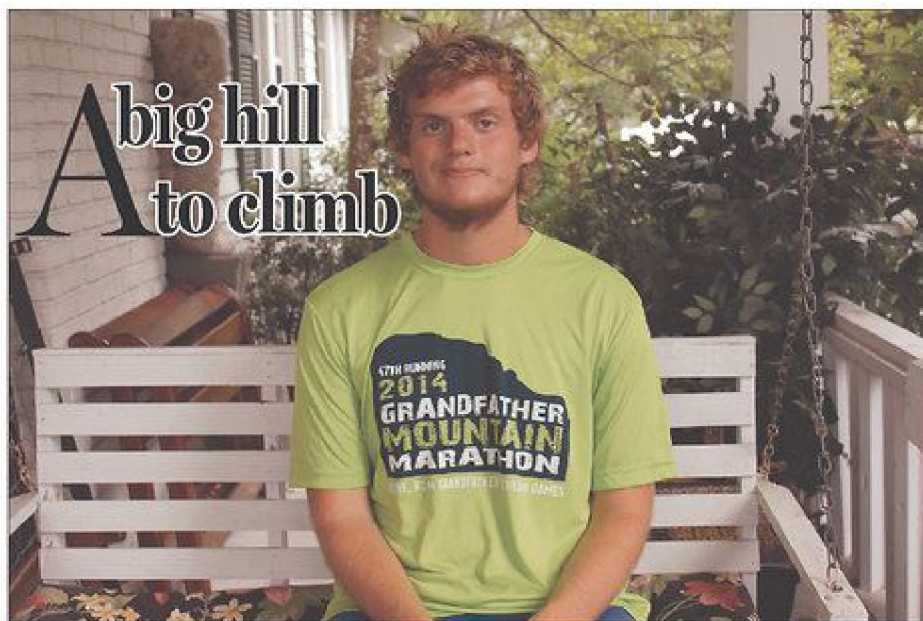
Twelfth Circuit Solicitor Ed Clements III said O'Neal was one of five defendants involved in 30-year-old Fonnelle Travis Delane's plan to kill Hall and Poston.

Delane, a self-proclaimed rapper who had his own recording studio and ran a local crack-cocaine ring, recruited Laross Antonio Graham to kill Hall and Poston after he learned the two were confidential informants for local narcotics officers and slated to testify against him in a drug-distribution case.

According to Graham, Delane hired him to do the job, but he didn't think he "had the stomach" to actually carry out the killings, so he recruited an acquaintance, 28-year-old Montez Barker — who was wearing an electronic monitor on his ankle as a condition of a recent release from prison but indicated he had no problem carrying out the murders.

Poston and Hall were killed on a dirt road just off Flowers Road near Pamplico Highway. Barker and Graham then left the two dead on the road, took their Ford Explorer and later burned it. At that point, Delane brought his 33-year-old cousin, Anthony Wingate, into the plan after the murders, ordering him to pick up Graham from the crime scene and dispose of the gun.

After the shootings, on the orders of Delane, O'Neal got drugs and money to pay the shooters for their



Florence teenager Matt Jordan recently completed the Grandfather Mountain Marathon. Jordan was the youngest participant.



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

Matt Jordan in 1997 with his grandfather Blaney Howle and his uncle Rob Shamblin. Both men died in the past two years, and Jordan ran in their memory on July 12 when he participated in the Grandfather Mountain Marathon.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local teen changes  
life through running

BY MELISSA ROLLINS

Morning News  
mrollins@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The teenage years are hard. Insecurities abound, as do the phases that come and go.

Matt Jordan said his family thought running was a phase when he started doing it in the ninth grade at Wilson High School. Years later, as he gets set to head off to college with his first marathon under his belt, Jordan said it wasn't a phase. It was a lifestyle and mindset change.

At the start of high school, Jordan weighed 210 pounds.

"When I was in elementary school and people would call me fat, I would

See JORDAN, Page 4A

## Jamestown descendants descend on former community

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY

Morning News  
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Descendants of Irvin James, the founder of Jamestown, will hold their annual gathering in Florence this weekend to educate the community about

## WANT TO GO?

WHAT: Jamestown reunion

WHERE: Jamestown settlement off Old Marion Highway near Roche Carolina

WHEN: Friday, Saturday and Sunday in various locations around Florence.









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Wire Reports



AS ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME  
Crab fisherman Frank McFarland, left, holds up the rare blue-colored red king crab he caught last week as Frank Kavairlook Jr. looks on.

#### ■ Rare blue-colored red king crab caught in Alaska

NOME, Alaska — A rare blue-colored red king crab was part of a fisherman's catch earlier this month in Nome, Alaska.

KNOM reports Frank McFarland found the blue crab in his pot when fishing on July Fourth off Nome. The blue crab is being kept alive at the Norton Sound Seafood Center until McFarland can have it mounted.

The rare crab has become a rock star of sorts, with people showing up at the center to have their photos taken with it.

Scott Kent, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Nome, says he has no idea why the red king crab is blue, but suspects it's just a mutation.

Kent says a blue crab "turns up once in a blue moon."

#### ■ Man accused of using company check to pay hooker

SUDELL, La. — Police in a New Orleans suburb say a health food store worker is accused of using a \$200 company check to pay a prostitute after a backroom encounter.

Surveillance cameras showed it all. That's what Slidell Police spokesman Detective Daniel Seuzeneau said in a news release. It all came to light when the store's manager reviewed surveillance footage after finding that a company check was missing.

Seuzeneau said 24-year-old Charles West remained jailed Thursday after being booked Wednesday on charges of theft, forgery and soliciting prostitution. Seuzeneau said he did not know whether West has an attorney.

Police say they plan to arrest the woman for prostitution once they identify her.

#### ■ Mosquito trap causes bomb scare at power plant

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ACC Kickoff, B1

## 'Right Beside You'

Beloved musician's music lives on  
with new CD thanks to his best friend

By KIMBERLEY N. DAVIS  
T&D Staff Writer

Since they were fifth graders at Orangeburg Preparatory School, Michael "Troy" Pooser, the charismatic budding musician, would never be far away from his best friend, Charan "Gogi" Randhawa, the talented artist.

In their friendship lay no differences. They were both raised to show great appreciation for all cultures, and their eclectic style could be heard in the music they played and produced together.

Pooser was invested in several musical projects both professionally and personally before his death in October 2013. However, some of his greatest relationships were found close to home and in the community.

Randhawa supported his best friend in life and even after Pooser's death, remains committed to the tight bond they shared and to fulfilling the plans the two had for the future.

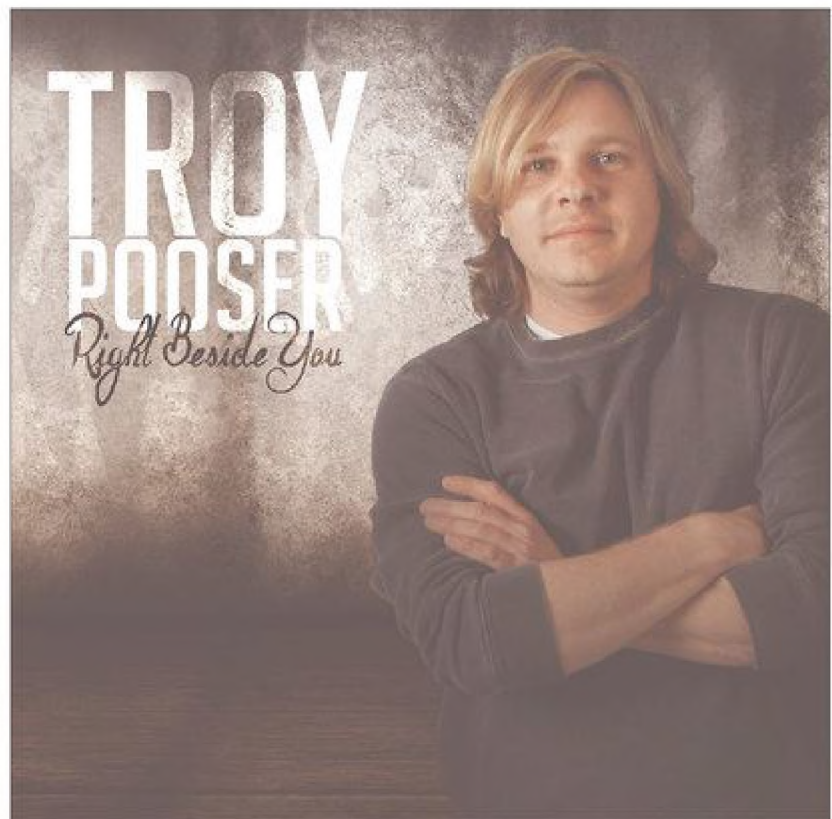
For what seemed like an eternity during the drive back to Atlanta, Ga. following Pooser's funeral, Randhawa said he and his wife, Amber, decided to move back to South Carolina to see his friend's dreams of having his music heard over the airwaves realized.

By honoring his commitment, Randhawa made sure family, friends and fans can still enjoy the voice and talent of Pooser, a "beloved man, musician and Christ worshipper," on the CD project "Right Beside You." The CD is set to be released on July 24, which would have been Pooser's 38th birthday.

The album features seven songs, five of which were written by Pooser. The other songs, "Better Late Than Never" by Gogi and "His Song" by friends of Pooser, are dedicated to the late musician. His friends join in one accord on the title track "His Song."

Some of the song's lyrics are: "Sing your hearts out. You're never alone. Believe my friends. We're just one breath away. Close your eyes. We can all carry on when we sing his song."

See MUSICIAN, A3



SPECIAL TO THE T&D



A CD of the late Michael "Troy" Pooser's music (cover above) is set for release on July 24, which would have been Pooser's 38th birthday. At right, the late Michael "Troy" Pooser, left, with boyhood friend Charan "Gogi" Randhawa. Visit this story online for a link to the companion documentary.

## City-Claflin forensic lab partnership honored

By GENE ZALESKI  
T&D Staff Writer

right here at the forensic lab and ... offer our services to other agencies in



Brian Symmes

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