

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Friday, April 4, 2014

SC Front Pages – Friday, April 4, 2014



METRO, 3A TEENS IN CUSTODY



E GREENVILLE Greenville eats up Cuban food

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

FRIDAY,
APRIL 4, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USATODAY LETTERMAN TO RETIRE IN 2015 PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

DOWNTOWN

More housing planned in city

Mixed-use condo project,
apartments in the works

By Rudolph Bell

Staff writer
dbell@greenvillenews.com

Plans for an eight-story condominium building with space for a shop or offices and a separate five-story apartment complex are the latest evidence that a building boom continues downtown.

Greenville developer Tom Croft plans 45 condos near the intersection of Camperdown Way and Rhett Street in the most recent version of his long-standing plans to put housing on a patch of high ground next to RiverPlace and Riverwalk, one block off Main Street.

Croft initially planned condos for the site six years ago, then switched to apartments after the Great Recession hit. Now he figures the downtown market is ready for condos again.

It's not as difficult for prospective buyers to get a condo mortgage as it was in the initial years after the economic downturn, Croft said, and it's also not as difficult for condo developers such as himself to obtain financing.

Plus, he said, high demand for downtown housing has driven up apartment rents, and they're now close to the monthly cost of owning a condo.

Under those conditions, Croft said he feels more comfortable supplying condos to the downtown market than at any time since 2008.

"I think the timing is good because there haven't been any condos built in the last five years to any size or success, and I feel like there's pent-up demand for them," said Croft, who developed two condo complexes downtown, North Main and Field House, before the recession.

The 95,000-square-foot complex he now plans would include 1,500 square feet of retail/office space fronting Rhett Street.

The condos would have an Italianate design that would incorporate stucco, wrought iron, clay tiles and lime-washed brick, according to Croft and plans filed at City Hall.

See HOUSING, Page 4A



Lisa Clark and her boyfriend, Buster Stewart, are the first customers to run through the tunnel of employees as they enter Cabela's during its grand opening on Thursday. The couple arrived at 3 a.m. MYKAL MCELDOON/STAFF

SHOPPERS GO WILD FOR CABELA'S

Thousands wait in line early for outdoors store to open

By Angelia Davis

Staff writer
davis@greenvilleonline.com

It took a long time for Greenville to land an outdoors retailer and for Magnolia Park to gain traction.

But Cabela's opened to the public Thursday, and Magnolia Park, nearly built out, has emerged as another big-store venue between Haywood Mall and Greenridge and the Woodruff Road big boxes.

Just how big a deal it is to have Cabela's could be seen in the scores of people waiting for the doors to open. Nathan Borowski, corporate spokesman for Cabela's, estimated the total to be 3,500.

Lisa Clark and her boyfriend, Bust-

"We didn't think there was going to be a lot of people with it being on a Thursday, but they showed up."

LISA CLARK, the first customer through Cabela's doors

er Stewart, didn't see that coming when they arrived there at 3 a.m.

"We didn't think there was going to be a lot of people with it being on a Thursday, but they showed up," said Clark, who'd taken the day off from work to be there.

She and Stewart both enjoy fishing

and camping and said they've been waiting for a long time to have Cabela's in the Upstate.

"Before, we had to order everything online. Then you have to play the waiting game for the mail to bring it, and that's aggravating sometimes," Clark said. "Now we can just come, get what we got to get, have it in hand and walk out of the store."

Tommy Millner, CEO of the Sidney, Neb.-based Cabela's, said the company did its market research and "clearly identified" that its customers are here in big numbers from its catalog and Internet business. That, and not retail stores, is how the company started, he said.

See CABELA'S, Page 4A

Bill provokes catfish row

Pond suppliers could face catch limits at Santee lakes

By Tim Smith

still in the lake," Jimmy Nixon, the





Old casino boat to go to highest bidder
BUSINESS, B6



Score free coffee & more
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The Post and Courier

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FRIDAY, April 4, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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COOPER RIVER BRIDGE RUN



WHEN & WHERE: 8 a.m. Saturday from Coleman Boulevard near Simmons Street in Mount Pleasant to Meeting Street in Charleston between George and Calhoun streets.
COST: The event sold out Tuesday at 38,400 participants at regular registration rates of \$35 to \$45. Registration for \$150 per person for a "charity bib" is still available.
INFORMATION: bridgerun.com

FLOWERTOWN FESTIVAL



WHEN & WHERE: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in Azalea Park in Summerville.
COST: Free admission
INFORMATION: flowertownfestival.org

ReVille victim recalls 5 incidents

Says shame kept him from giving full story

BY NATALIE CAULA HAUFF
ncaula@postandcourier.com

The former Citadel summer camper whose 2007 complaint raised questions about serial molester Louis "Skip" ReVille's conduct at the school now says his contact with the former camp counselor was more serious than he originally let on.

During a recent deposition filed in a civil lawsuit surrounding the school's handling of allegations against ReVille, the victim said he was present in five pornography and masturbation sessions with ReVille in the counselor's dorm room.

During his interview with a school attorney in 2007, the former camper said he had been a victim of ReVille during only one incident on campus. When asked by his attorney why he didn't reveal the full story to school officials at the time, the victim said it was because a lawyer for the military college questioned him in front of his parents.

"I was ashamed and embarrassed. I didn't want them to know that it happened more than one time," he said during a March 31 deposition.

Please see REVILLE, Page A6



Louis "Skip" ReVille is serving a 50-year prison sentence.

The big weekend

Spring traditions beckon runners, tennis spectators, music fans, art lovers

BY PRENTISS FINDLAY
pfindlay@postandcourier.com

Blooming azaleas, sizzling serves and a running horse signal the season of renewal in the Lowcountry. This time, though, it will feel a bit sweeter. After a long, at times frozen winter,

Spring appears to have finally, at long last, sprung.

The timing of the shift toward warmer, longer days couldn't be better for outdoor happenings expected to attract upwards of 250,000 people this weekend. The Flowertown Festival in Summerville boasts of drawing around 100,000

during its two-day blossom bash that begins Friday.

Family Circle Cup has bragging rights as the largest women's tennis tournament in the world. Thousands are expected to attend the internationally televised final. Please see WEEKEND, Page A4

Inside

Venus knocked out of Family Circle Cup. C1
Only local to win bridge Run still sets records. D1

LOWCOUNTRY CAJUN FESTIVAL



WHEN & WHERE: Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday at James Island County Park.
COST: \$10 for adults, free for ages 12 and under. Free admission with Gold Pass.
INFORMATION: charlestoncountyparks.com/cajun

FAMILY CIRCLE CUP



WHEN & WHERE: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Friday quarterfinals, 1 p.m. Saturday semifinals, 11 a.m. Sunday finals at Family Circle Stadium on Daniel Island.
COST: On Friday, \$35 to \$75 for adults, \$10 to \$15 for ages 12 and under; on Saturday and Sunday, \$35 to \$80 for adults, \$10 to \$15 for ages 12 and under.
INFORMATION: familycirclecup.com

Online
BRIDGERUN Get your pre-race information at postandcourier.com/bridgerun. On Saturday, we'll be covering the race starting at the shuttle pickups and through to the finish line. Follow our live blog at live.postandcourier.com. Contribute by using #cbr on Twitter or tag us on Instagram with #postandcourier.
FLOWERTOWN & CAJUN FESTIVALS Get the full rundown at charlestonscene.com.

Blind runner inspires Stall High kids

Charlie Plaskon to give school his medal from '13 Boston Marathon



Plaskon

BY DAVID QUICK
dquick@postandcourier.com

After the Boston Marathon bombings last year, many of the students at Stall High School in North Charleston were worried about a blind runner they had heard speak just weeks before. Charlie Plaskon, 70, of Moriches, N.Y., had run last year's Cooper River Bridge Run with Stall sprinter Kim Wilson, as a guide, and

then ran in Boston with another guide nine days later.

Plaskon was at Mile 25 when police told the pair that they had to leave the course and find their way back to their hotel.

"It was crazy," Plaskon said. "We didn't know what was going on. We heard there was an explosion at the finish line. There were police officers with guns. There were

Please see RUNNER, Page A4

U.S. created 'Twitter' for Cubans

Secret program attracts scrutiny

BY DESMOND BUTLER,
JACK GILLUM
and ALBERTO ARCE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government masterminded the creation of a "Cuban Twitter" — a communications network designed to undermine the communist government in Cuba, built with secret shell companies and financed through foreign banks. The Associated Press has learned.

The Obama administration project, which lasted more than two years and drew tens of thousands of subscribers, sought to evade Cuba's stranglehold on the Internet with a primitive social media platform. First, the network would build a Cuban audience, mostly young people; then, the plan was to push them toward dissent.

Please see CUBA, Page A6

Interactive

For an AP interactive graphic on the secret Cuban 'Twitter' network, go to postandcourier.com/secret-cuban-twitter.



Partly sunny
High 85, Low 63.
Complete 5-day
forecast, B8

Bridge — D7
Business — B6
Classifieds — C1
Comics — D6
Connections — B6
Editorials — A12
News — D4
Obituaries — D4
People — D1
The South — B1
Sports — C1
Travel — D5

Charleston Deals today

Finger Lickin' Chicken Wing Fling Thing
Full off admission meal tickets. See A2

Unions for S.C. athletes?

Ron Morris says they're unlikely and unnecessary. **C1**

S.C. SENATE

Plan to make firing teachers easier likely dead for year

Senators pledge to find another way to get rid of bad educators

By JAMIE SELF
jself@thestate.com

A proposal to make it easier for school districts to fire bad teachers likely is dead for the year.

But the idea driving the proposal — speeding up the process of firing teachers and resolving sometimes lengthy appeals of dismissals to school boards and courts — is one that Republicans and Democrats alike say they can get behind.

A state Senate K-12 education panel voted Thursday to shelve a proposal, by state Sen. Paul Thurmond, R-Charleston, to make it easier to fire bad teachers. But senators of both parties committed to finding another way to accomplish similar goals.

Critics of making changes say school districts already have

enough tools to dismiss poor-performing teachers. School districts conduct formal evaluations, giving teachers a chance to improve. After that, districts can decide not to continue their contracts, said Kathy Maness, executive director of the Palmetto State Teachers Association.

But one Democratic state senator was skeptical that those efforts are enough.

"I'm all about due process," replied state Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg. "But don't you think two years is a long time to have to go through that process if you realize it's not going to work out?"

Thurmond's proposal would have stripped teachers of their rights to appeal a dismissal — except in discrimination cases.

SEE FIRING PAGE A4



Allen University's interim president, Lady June Cole, is trying to put it on a new path.

Allen's interim leader hopes to spark energy on small campus

By CAROLYN CLICK
click@thestate.com

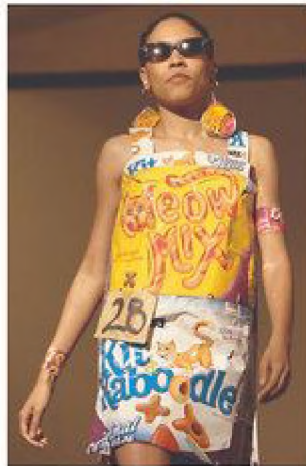
The interim president of Allen University has set some determined goals for the small, historically black school that sits at Harden and Taylor

INSIDE

The university will unveil its Poetry House in 2015. **Page A6**

dents work closely together.

"One of the things I'm



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The State

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

4 teens nabbed in S.C. after dad slain

TENNESSEE INCIDENT ENDS WITH NEWBERRY COUNTY MANHUNT, ARREST AFTER FARMER SPOTS TEENS IN FIELD



Law enforcement officials searched vehicles on U.S. 176 in Newberry while seeking four individuals wanted in a Tennessee slaying investigation.

By DAWN HINSHAW
dhinshaw@thestate.com

NEWBERRY COUNTY — A

day on foot, running from some 80 state and local law officers looking for them after one of

and knew it must be the teenagers deputies had been hunting since early Thursday morning.

ONLINE

View a photo gallery of the day's events, plus

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

FRIDAY, April 4, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Progress in cleanup

Contractors accelerate debris pickup | 5A



STAFF PHOTO BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER

S.C. Department of Transportation contractor J.B. Coxwell and its subcontractors turned more than 11,000 cubic yards of ice storm debris from City of Aiken limits into mulch on Thursday morning outside the Aiken Fairgrounds.

Hotels prepare for The Masters

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

Hotel bookings for The Masters Tournament week began more than a year ago, and many hotels in the area reached zero availability several months in advance.

Kathryn Campbell, the general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn, said the going rate for Masters week is \$450 per night, which translates to nearly \$3,000 for the week.

While the amount seems pricey, Campbell said they've been full for months.

"It is the biggest event of the year, and it has a huge economic impact. It affects every aspect of our local economy in a positive light," she said.

Like many hotels, Campbell said the preparation period is always a busy, but fun, time. This year, the Hilton paid for staff members to take the historic Aiken trolley tour so they would be prepared to answer questions about the area when customers came in for the week.

"We have people come from all over the world, which is amazing. These people like to be able to go out and eat and so we train our staff so we can better serve them," she added.

Kathryn Sharp from Hampton Inn guest services, said the rate for the week is also \$450. Also, like the Hilton, the Hampton prepares for The Masters in various ways.

Please see **MASTERS**, Page 16A

Aiken Standard requests information from City, SCDOT on pickup process

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Even as the piles of storm debris in and around the City of Aiken begin to be cleared at an accelerated rate, questions and criticism from city residents and elected officials alike are stacking up in their place.

The *Aiken Standard* on Thursday filed a Freedom of Information Act request, also known as an FOI, with Aiken City Manager Richard Pearce after the City of Aiken and other officials have given varied accounts about why S.C. Department of Transportation contractors

were not picking up debris in the city limits until this week.



Pearce

Pearce claims he never gave such a directive.

The *Aiken Standard* on Thursday filed a Freedom of Information Act request, also known as an FOI ...

In an effort to learn what may have been said, and by whom, during the process, the *Aiken Standard* FOI request seeks the release of emails, text messages and written correspondence to and from

Pearce and Aiken Public Services Director Tim Coakley.

The request asks for all such communications between Feb. 10, the day before Winter Storm Pax, to present.

A second group of FOI requests was also issued to SCDOT representatives Resident Maintenance Engineer Bobby Usry, Communications Director Pete Poore and Chief Engineer for Operations Leland Colvin. The *Aiken Standard* is asking these officials for all of their electronic and digital communications on the same topic.

Please see **REQUEST**, Page 16A

INSIDE TODAY

Palace Malice continues to pile on plaudits
Sports, 1B

Augusta concerts kick off Masters Week
Living on the Go, 1C

AREA DEATHS

Betty Koss Goggans, Langley
Debra Prescott Lankford, Gaston
Georgia Fryar, Columbia, Md.
James "Jimmy" Usery, Jackson
Marion Fox, Aiken
Walter Harley Jr., Wagener
Marcia Mary Margaret Stygar, Windsor
Rosemary Wright, Far Rockaway, N.Y.

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

In-school counselor brings family services

BY ROB NOVIT
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

Editor's note: This is the second part of a three-part series on a collaboration between the Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center and the Aiken County School District to introduce in-school services.

Five months ago, the Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center placed clinical counselor Terrence Charles at Aiken Middle School and North Aiken Elementary School, where he provides services to children in need.

He described how he can relate to his work with 36 kids.

"At the age of 14, I had a mentor in my life," Charles said. "He told me I had a bad attitude and that I needed to keep my Ps and Qs. I dropped my guard and started to pay attention."

He has worked at the center for the past decade, and is now engaged in this new venture. In a real way, Charles is serving as a mentor, as well as a counselor.

With the cooperation of the School District, the Mental Health Center

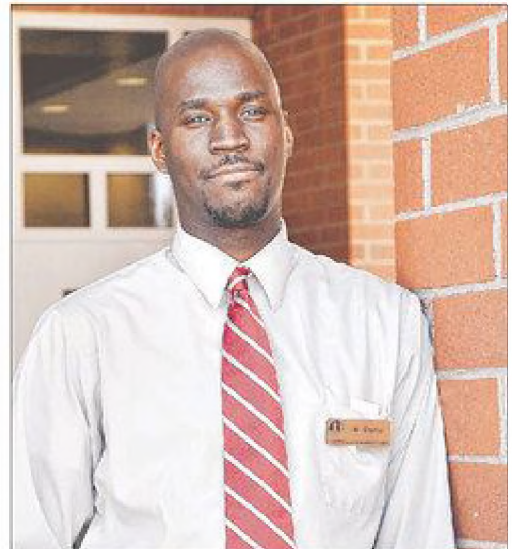
Elementary-Middle School in Wagener. The S.C. Department of Mental Health provides such services to many schools throughout the state.

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Charles arrived in the U.S. with his mother in 1998. His new mentor arrived at a pivotal time of his life. He began to push himself academically, and by then, Charles knew he wanted to pursue psychology. He received a scholarship to USC Aiken, and while in college, he worked at Tri-Development. Charles went on to receive a master's degree.

He joined the Mental Health Center in 2004, working primarily with adults. For the long term, Charles wanted to focus on children, moving into multisystemic therapy, also known as MST.

"That's the equivalent of being a 'supernanny,'" he said with a smile. "I incorporated a lot more families in the process of doing this service."

Charles works with a child, the parents and the school to merge the pieces together and help the child function well. Referrals usually come from audience counselors.





The Beaufort Gazette

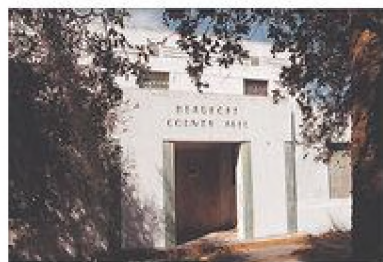
FRIDAY, April 4, 2014

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IN BEAUFORT

Old jail considered for redevelopment



THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

The vacant historic Beaufort County jail on King Street in downtown Beaufort is shown Thursday.

Plan calls for building 13 or 14 residences on the half-block site

By ERIN MOODY
emoody@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8184

The vacant, historic Beaufort County Jail and surrounding land on King Street in downtown is being considered for redevelopment into 13 or 14 residences.

The plan is the most recent private-public partnership the city's Redevelopment Commission is tackling as it continues to encourage filling in empty lots and pre-

serving historic structures.

The commission discussed ideas during a meeting Thursday with Wyatt Pringle, principal of Gunbo Limbo, LLC, which bought the property from the county for \$91,000 in 2006.

The jail was built in 1938 and has been empty since 1992, according to Beaufort Gazette archives. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A number of rehabilitation projects have been

discussed over the years, but none moved forward.

The plan calls for developing the half-block site into three single-family homes, eight duplexes and one building with two or three residences. Those homes do not include using the jail. The group discussed demolition of an addition to the jail and keeping only the original building. Commission member Mike McNally said the building has, among other issues, asbestos and

peeling lead paint.

Pringle said the property was bought as an investment with the intent of developing it. But then the real estate market crashed.

He was contacted by the Redevelopment Commission about three weeks ago, and sat down with McNally and chairman Jon Verity to discuss ideas.

Commission members discussed

Please see JAIL on 7A

FORT HOOD ARMY BASE
SHOOTING AFTERMATH

Argument may have preceded attack

By PAUL J. WEBER
and WILL WEISSERT
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — The soldier who killed three people at Fort Hood may have argued with another service member prior to the attack, and investigators believe his unstable mental health contributed to the rampage, authorities said Thursday.



The base's senior officer, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, said there is a "strong possibility" that Spec. Ivan Lopez had a "verbal altercation" with another soldier or soldiers immediately before Wednesday's shooting, which unfolded on the same Army post that was the scene of an infamous 2009 mass shooting.

Please see ATTACK on 7A

GUN BACKGROUND CHECKS

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., calls on Congress to reconsider expanding the federal gun background check program. **7A**

IN BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY

MYSTERY SOLVED

Pvt. Haywood Treadwell receives new gravestone after 150 years with marker that read "Unknown Confederate Soldier"



THEOPHIL SYSLO • Staff photo

A new gravestone marks the resting place of Confederate Pvt. Haywood Treadwell in Beaufort National Cemetery. A ceremony next month will honor Treadwell, whose remains were recently identified after being unknown for 150 years.

By MATT McNAB • mmcnab@beaufortgazette.com • 843-706-8125

S.C. SENATE

Panel shelves 'bad teacher' legislation

The answer to one of Beaufort County's oldest mysteries will be officially unveiled next month, along with a new gravestone for the only unknown Confederate soldier buried in Beaufort National Cemetery. The soldier is no longer unknown.



Pvt. Haywood Treadwell of North Carolina has received a new marker — this one with his name on it — after his remains were recently identified after being unknown for 150 years.

WHO WAS PVT. HAYWOOD TREADWELL?

Service records and burial orders indicate Pvt. Haywood Treadwell was born in Sampson County, N.C., worked as a turpentine farmer and was married before he joined the 61st Volun-



Changing lives

Oakbrook Prep students' senior project helps orphans in Nicaragua E1

Herald-Journal

FRIDAY

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HJ
IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



Letterman to retire

During a taping of Thursday's edition of "Late Show," David Letterman startled his audience with the news that he will step down in 2015, when his current contract with CBS expires.

PAGE A2

Seeking a motive

The soldier who killed three people at Fort Hood may have argued with another service member prior to the attack, and investigators believe his unstable mental health contributed to the rampage, authorities said Thursday.

PAGE A3

Teens caught

A 16-year-old wanted in the killing of his father in Tennessee hid from police dogs, officers and helicopters in central South Carolina with three of his friends for 10 hours Thursday before they were caught, police said.

PAGE A6

Cabela's opens

About 4,000 outdoor enthusiasts from across the Upstate flocked to the new Cabela's store in Greenville County on Thursday. The Nebraska-based outfitter put on a show as it celebrated the grand opening of its first retail outlet in South Carolina.

PAGE B1

Bad time to rent?

These are good times for U.S. landlords. For tenants, not so much. Demand for apartments is driving up rent.

PAGE C4

Ex-county worker's plea: Guilty

Woman admits stealing \$127,000 over 4-year period

By FELICIA KITZMILLER
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

A former Spartanburg County employee pleaded guilty to an embezzlement charge during an emotional hearing Thursday.

Cynthia "Cindy" Brower, 51, admitted to stealing \$127,000 from Spartanburg County over nearly four years, during which time she served as a senior accountant in the finance department.

A direct indictment for embezzlement of more than \$10,000, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years in jail, was signed by the attorney general, but Brower pleaded to embezzlement of \$2,000 to \$5,000, which carries a penalty of up to five years in jail.

Prosecutor Andrew Ritner said Brower was allowed to plead to the lesser charge because she was able to make full and immediate restitution, which satisfied Spartanburg County administration's primary concern of being made whole.

"The county is deeply troubled by the fact that Cindy Brower, a county employee for almost

20 years, knowingly deceived the county and took advantage of the trust that had been placed in her to steal public funds for her own personal benefit and gain," county officials wrote in a statement given to the judge before sentencing. "As punishment, the county seeks no less than that provided to other individuals who have been before this court in similar situations."

During the hearing, Brower's attorney Steve Denton handed Rit-



Brower

ner a check for \$155,015.80 — the full amount taken plus reimbursement for the forensic accountant the county hired to investigate the theft.

Judge Brian Gibbons sentenced Brower to six months of home detention, which she will serve at her brother's home in Spartanburg because she lives in North Carolina. At the conclusion of home detention, she will serve three years of probation, which she will be allowed to serve in North Carolina with the approval of the justice system.

◆ SEE PLEA PAGE A7

Music on Main returns



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



South85 entertains the crowd at the first Music on Main of the year in downtown Spartanburg on Thursday evening. Above, Ava Deeder, 6, Luke Deeder, 3, and Sophia Curtis, 7, enjoy playing together during the concert. See a photo gallery at GoUpstate.com.

Greene found guilty

Woman's infant daughter died from breast milk tainted with morphine

By KIM KIMZEY
kim.kimzey@shj.com

A jury on Thursday found a Campobello woman whose 6-week-old daughter died of a morphine overdose guilty of homicide by child abuse, involuntary manslaughter and unlawful conduct toward a child.

The jury of eight women and four men deliberated about three and a half hours before returning with guilty verdicts for Stephanie Irene Greene. Circuit Court Judge Derham Cole will sentence the 39-year-old woman this morning. She has been taken into custody.

Lethal levels of morphine were found in Alexis Catherine Greene's blood, brain and liver.

Seventh Circuit Solicitor Barry Barnett told the jury in his closing statement that Greene, a former nurse, knew



Greene

◆ SEE GREENE PAGE A7

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

Senators: Old law must change

Lawmakers say teacher appeal process drags out, short-changes children

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Senators think South Carolina's process for removing an underperforming teacher can drag out at the expense of school districts and children's education, and it needs to change.

A bill debated Thursday by a Senate panel would give principals

the final say in whether to extend a teacher's contract. While no vote was taken, the entire subcommittee agreed the decades-old law must be updated. The question is how.

"It's an issue that definitely needs to be dealt with," said Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, who advised teacher advocacy groups to work toward a compromise.

Tenure doesn't exist in South

Teacher seniority

■ Bill says layoffs can't be based on length of employment, 3A

Carolina's schools. But teachers who have been in the classroom for several years — those who have earned "continuing contract" status — have certain rights before being terminated, starting with notification of a formal evaluation over the upcoming school year. Teachers who don't pass that evaluation can then appeal to their school board. If that hearing doesn't go their way, they can take

their case to court.



BRAD HUTTO

The bill's sponsor, GOP Sen. Paul Thurmond of Charleston, said the time involved means some children are being short-changed.

"We need to protect teachers from arbitrary and capricious dismissal, but at the same time we need to protect students who aren't learning anything in the

See LAW, page 4A

GREENWOOD COUNTY

Sheriff's office training site talks continue

By CHRIS TRINOR
ctrinor@indexjournal.com

Greenwood County Council and Greenwood County Sheriff's Office personnel continue to discuss the possibility of removing a piece of property from the county's airport master plan so that a portion of that property could be used as a law enforcement training site.

Officials first discussed the possibility of a training site in March. The topic came up again at Tuesday night's administration and finance committee meeting, as GCSO Capt. Dale Kittles revealed further ideas and potential plans for a prospective training site.

The land that potentially would be removed from the airport master plan is about 100 acres along Old Laurens Road, near the county airport. While the plot of land is 100 acres, GCSO personnel have said the training site would not require use of all the land.

The prospective training site would be more than just a firing range, and would instead be a facility where officers could conduct more interactive, dynamic training. This would include courses in which officers could practice various "shoot, don't shoot" scenarios.

Kittles presented council a pair of ideas for a potential training site. One idea was for a five-acre site and one was for a 10-acre site.

According to information presented by Kittles, a five-acre facility could include a 200-yard rifle range, a 50-yard pistol range, an obstacle course, a "shoot house," and a classroom building. The site also would include an access road and a parking lot.

The shoot house is a facility in which "shoot, don't shoot" scenarios can be acted out.

See TRAINING, page 4A

LEGISLATURE

TB bill advances from committee

By MATT BRUCE
mbruce@indexjournal.com

A legislative bill crafted by District 10 state Sen. Floyd Nicholson continued to make progress at the statehouse Thursday.

The state assembly's Medical Affairs Committee unanimously approved Senate Bill 1084 on Thurs-

UPTOWN LIVE



PHOTOS BY MACH JONES/INDEX JOURNAL

ABOVE AND BELOW: As the sun begins to set, people bring out their lawn chairs in the Countybank Plaza to enjoy food, drinks and music by The Fabulous Expressions for Uptown Live on Thursday at 6 p.m. **AT LEFT:** The Fabulous Expressions rock the main stage at Uptown Live, an event sponsored by Carolina Pride.



Next level

Undefeated
Wilson Hall tennis
team has sights
set on deeper
playoff run **B1**



LOCAL:
*Men will
strap on
heels for
domestic
violence
walk **A2***

School district to eliminate 12 jobs

9 positions will change; streamlining for 2014-15 term to save money

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
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Sumter School District has decided to eliminate 11 district-level positions comprising 12 jobs starting in the 2014-15 school term in an effort to streamline operations at the district office.

This is the second phase of district reorganization since Superintendent Dr. Frank Baker came on board in July. Baker

said the two phases of eliminations will save the district about \$2 million — money he plans to put back into the classrooms.

Less than a year into the new position, Baker said he is continuing the process of making the district more efficient.

"It really centers around my philosophy that I like to see a



BAKER

district office very lean, and that means that it needs to be in proportionate components with the way the schools are staffed."

Baker explained, "But if you look at the instructional vision, I believe in people wearing more than one hat. I looked at first their abilities and made sure that I matched up to the best of my ability what their abilities and strengths are to be able to perform the job that we need."

Board of Trustees Chairman

Keith Schultz explained that Baker runs the district, but the board was also consulted on the decision to eliminate these positions, and the board approved it.

Those employees serving in the positions that are being eliminated or changed will stay in their current positions until the end of the school year.

Baker previously evaluated

**SCHOOL
DISTRICT
POSITIONS
AFFECTED**

Turn to page
A6 for a list of
jobs to be
eliminated at
the district
level and jobs
to be changed
at the school
level.

SEE DISTRICT, PAGE A6



BRISTOW MARCHANT / THE SUMTER ITEM

Maj. Gen. James Post speaks at the annual Air Force Association dinner on Wednesday. Post, like many commanders, is concerned about the effects of sequestration on the force's combat readiness. The AFA is urging members to counter future cuts to the military.

Annual dinner's conversation turns to impact of military cuts

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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The annual Air Force Association dinner is supposed to be a happy occasion for Sumter's military community. But Wednesday night's feast was overcast with talk of the continuing cuts to the military and their impact on its mission.

Maj. Gen. James Post is an alumnus of Shaw Air Force Base who now directs operations at Air Combat Command headquarters in Langley, Va. He gave the keynote address in the ballroom of Sunset Country Club, focusing on the command's mission to maintain the nation's combat readiness in an uncertain time.

Despite the effects of budget cuts, sequestration and last year's government shutdown, "I'm confident we can come back as the strongest, greatest Air Force in the world," Post said.

The event, co-hosted by the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce and the AFA's

'There's no higher calling'



PHOTOS BY RAYTEVIA EVANS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Millwood Elementary School Principal Dr. Johnny Hilton visits one of the school's second-grade classes recently. Hilton has served as principal at Millwood for 25 years and has been in education for 34 years. He plans to retire when his contract ends in June. "It's been a great life, and I had a great run," he said. "I couldn't ask for better."

Longtime elementary school principal to retire

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
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Sitting in a wooden rocking chair in his student file- and paperwork-covered office at Millwood Elementary School, Dr. Johnny Hilton got a little choked up while recalling his long, influential career in education in the Sumter community. After 25 years as principal of Mill-





SIX MILE BLAZE: Firefighters extinguish wildfire that consumed 100 acres. **A6**
FORT HOOD KILLINGS: Argument may have preceded gunman's rampage. **D1**

INCH-PERFECT
Bobcats stay unbeaten with tight win over Walhalla on pitch. **B1**

Mom's blood alcohol more than twice legal limit after fatal crash



BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A mother who is facing two felony DUI charges in connection with the deaths of her young daughters early on New

Year's Day had a blood alcohol level more than twice the legal limit.

Melissa Cassandra Patton, 32, of 526 Ravenel Circle, Seneca, had a blood alcohol level of .195, according to a report received Thursday

in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from the S.C. Department of Public Safety. The legal alcohol limit in South Carolina is .08.

Patton was charged with two counts of felony DUI and

one count of driving under suspension after an accident around 2:15 a.m. Jan. 1 on Wells Highway near the entrance to Utica Baptist Church. Her children —

SEE CRASH, PAGE A5

County Council special election could cost \$5K

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The special election for the District 3 Oconee County Council seat likely will cost \$5,000, even with just one name on the ballot.

Joy Brooks, who heads the Oconee County Voter Registration and Elections Office, confirmed Thursday that state law requires the May 20 special election be held.

Brooks said a write-in candidate is always a possibility, which is why the election has to be held, even if Inabinet is the only name on the ballot. Inabinet cannot be sworn in until after the election.

In most general elections, the state shares the cost with the county, but because there are no other races involved with the May 20 special election, Brooks said the county likely will foot the whole bill.

Brooks said new ballots would have to be printed, and poll workers stationed at the six precincts.

"It'll probably end up costing us about \$5,000, and that's just an estimate based on what we've seen in the past," Brooks said. "We'll trim it as slim as we can by printing as few ballots (as possible), but the law requires us to be open and have a certain number of workers that have to be there."

Meanwhile, the Oconee County Election Commission on Thursday certified the primary race between Inabinet and Paul Cain held Tuesday.

SEE ELECTION, PAGE A5

JAZZ ON THE ALLEY

Weekly event kicks off in downtown Seneca

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Bill and Ingrid Reeves, each with a cup of beer in their hands, were eager to make it to the block party called Jazz on the Alley.

The retired couple joined a large and lively crowd Thursday who showed up for the start of the fifth season of the weekly event, which runs weekly through October in downtown Seneca.

Empty seats at tables set up by participating restaurants in the middle of Ram Cat Alley were hard to find. Cars lined the parking lots downtown at Norton Thompson Park.

SEE JAZZ, PAGE A5

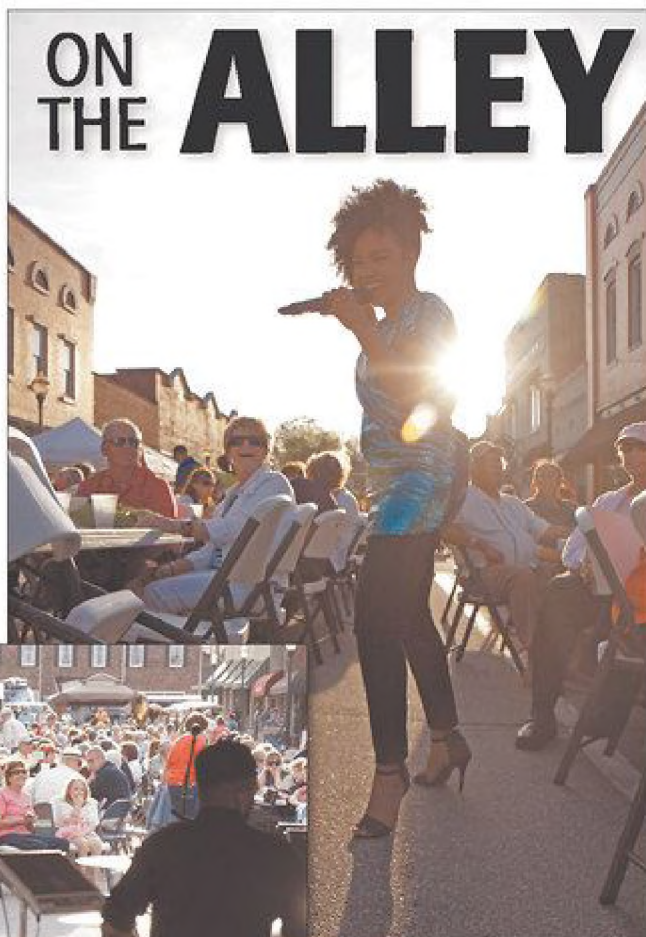


PHOTO BY CATHY HERRINGTON | THE JOURNAL

The season premier of Jazz on the Alley, which featured a live broadcast by WYFF meteorologist John Cessario and music by Funk Factory Jazz, attracted a large crowd to Ram Cat Alley on Thursday.



Holder's Landing staying open

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — As he was leaving Wednesday afternoon from a visit to his beloved Holder's Landing boat ramp, Bruce Burrell

Responding to a March 18 plea from Burrell, Oconee County Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to add Holder's Landing to a list of eight other lake access sites on Lake Hartwell that the

dition of Holder's Landing would not cause any problems for the county and he trusted the commitment from Burrell and a small group of fishermen to keep the area clean and mowed. He added that a



Bruce Burrell, left, stands on the boat ramp at Holder's Landing with his daughter, Emmalee, and fellow fisherman Aaron Kelley. Burrell was able to convince County Council to

19th Annual Carolinas Hospital System
Senior Life EXPO
Friday, April 4 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m. • Civic Center

SCHEDULE of ACTIVITIES

9:00 Music	12:00 Jean Watkins Singing Patsy Cline	2:30 Ludie Belle Comedy
9:30 Bingo/Trivia	12:30 Dr. Steve Brady Advanced Cardiology	3:00 Don Bowen Sing-a-long
9:45 Leatherman Line Dancers	1:00 Clay Brown	3:30 Clay Brown
10:30 Dr. John Shilling Gallbladder Disease	1:30 Bingo/Trivia	3:55 Bingo Finale
11:00 Senior Circle Dancers	2:00 Dandy Don The Singing Cowboy	
11:30 Dr. Peter O'Kelly Kidney Stones		

Morning News

FRIDAY APRIL 4, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER
Breezy, times of sun and clouds. High 88, low 59.
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents



PHOTOS BY VANDY COWAN FOR THE NEWS

The Junior All-City Chorus, made up of students from Sneed, Southside and Williams middle schools, performs Thursday night at Southside Middle School.



ABOVE: Southside Middle School's Lynn Perkins (left) presents a framed piece of music to performing arts coordinator Laura Greenway (center). The Junior All-City Chorus, made up of students from Sneed, Southside and Williams middle schools, performed Thursday night at Southside Middle School.

RIGHT: Guest conductor Landon Reynolds recognizes student singers. The Junior All-City Chorus, made up of students from Sneed, Southside and Williams middle schools, performed Thursday night at Southside Middle School.



UNITING IN HARMONY

Florence One Middle School All-City Chorus holds concert

FSD1 OKs new bullying program

Nonprofit founded in memory of Columbine victim to curb harassing

BY ELLEN MEDER
Morning News
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FLORENCE — This fall all Florence School District 1 students will participate in an interactive anti-bullying program the school board approved Thursday night.

The district will pay \$22,000 to contract with the Colorado-based nonprofit Rachel's Challenge to bring each school an assembly to focus on empowering students against bullying and imparting skills to show kindness to each other. The organization will also work with schools

See FSD1, Page 3A

Florence County More options for unified fire district

Council explores options to diversify revenue sources

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
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FLORENCE — The Florence County Council is now looking at several options to fund several fire departments other than stabilizing and eventually increasing millage.

At the council's request, County Administrator K.G. "Rusty" Smith Jr. presented members several options in a work session Thursday morning that would fund the proposed unified fire district in ways that would stand up strongly to possible legal challenges and diversify revenue sources. Legislation in Columbia that would alter language for how millage would be determined for

Florence, Pee Dee delegation meet with DC representatives

Area leaders discuss issues

ington, D.C., this week to discuss local issues, provide updates and get some qual-

transportation issues.

"We pull all these people from the Pee



LATE-GAME HEROICS PUSH OPS PAST CAVALIERS, B1

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014

The Times and Democrat

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3 SECTIONS, 40 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 94

Inspector General: SCSU mismanaged 1890 funds

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

The South Carolina Inspector General's office says that S.C. State University has been mismanaging money for federal public service activities for eight years, according to President Thomas Elzey.

A memo from the IG's office says the mismanagement has led to a, "\$6.7 million issue having to be dealt with in the fiscal year '13-'14," he said.

Elzey told The Times and Democrat that the problem arose because of the university's borrowing of public service funds from S.C. State's 1890 Research and Extension program. He noted the state was aware the university was using the funds and seemed not to have a problem with it.

The president addressed the IG's report on Thursday during the S.C. State board of trustee

"The PSA account, the 1890 money, has been made whole."

S.C. STATE PRESIDENT THOMAS ELZEY

committee meetings.

The 1890 program, which Elzey said operates separately from the university, is in the black. It's been the practice of the university in the past to borrow from the PSA funds to meet operating expenses.

He noted that the university borrowed money as recently as last year to meet payroll. About \$2.5 million was taken from 1890 last June and about \$2.3 to \$2.4 million in Decem-

See SCSU, A3

University preps for visit by SACS

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina State University administrators and staff recently got a taste of what to expect when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' accrediting committee visits the campus on April 15-17.

They took part in a mock visit developed and implemented by consultant group Silver & Associates. The exercise was designed to take a look

at the university's compliance with accreditation standards and prepare everyone for the visit, Interim Provost Dr. Franklin Evans said.

The institution was placed on warning by SACS last June for several issues, including the need to clarify the board's role, university finances and possible conflicts of interest by trustees.

The university submitted a response to the warning on March 14, and SACS is now reviewing it, Evans said. When

the real committee is on campus in April, they'll be verifying the response and seeking clarification on issues.

The mock visit was "a learning experience that showed some gaps we needed to account for," Evans said. "Many people here have never been through a SACS visit before, and the idea was also to make them more relaxed when the visit takes place."

See SACS, A3

SANTEE AT 65



CHRISTOPHER HURT/T&D

Santee Town Hall is pictured in this Tuesday, April 1, photo. Known for its many recreation options, the town will celebrate the 65th anniversary of its chartering this Saturday, April 5.

Celebration will mark town's birthday this Saturday

By MARY H. YARBOROUGH
T&D Correspondent

SANTEE — Santee, known as the area's "Oasis of Recreation," will celebrate the 65th anniversary of its chartering as a town this Saturday, April 5.

The town was incorporated May 20, 1949. Jimmy N. Smith, Santee's first mayor, served for 22 years. Silas Seabrooks was the town's second mayor, serving from 1972-1982. Seabrooks served as mayor again in 1998 before retiring in 2010.

Franklin R. Goehrin was elected mayor in 1002 and

boating.

Hilliard is optimistic about Santee's future.

"We are seeing revitalization and we are reinventing Santee," Hilliard says. "On April 5, we will light the fuse on its 65 years, and that will just be the start of things to come that are real, not just imagined."

Saturday's birthday celebration will coincide with the town's annual spring "Sale-A-Ration" yard sale complete with cake, burgers, hot dogs and door prizes provided by area merchants.

The yard sale will start at 8 a.m. followed by the birthday celebration at 10 a.m. in the grounds area of the Santee

Upcoming events in Santee

■ April 19 — 3 p.m., Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Santee Municipal Complex. A thousand treat-filled eggs will be hidden for children to find. The Easter Bunny will be the featured guest. Families are urged to bring lawn chairs to sit on. The event will be canceled in the event of rain.

■ April 25-27 — Annual Santee Birding and Nature Festival. The keynote event on April 25 will showcase an awards dinner for winners of the 2nd Annual Nature Photography Contest at the Santee Cultural Arts Center. The dinner will be catered by Charleston's Sticky Fingers. Deadline for entries is April 7. For more information, call Karen Behears, 843-884-7539.

■ Aug. 2-3 — The 24th Annual Rudolph Canzoner Memorial Classic sponsored by the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation. The weekend features a youth golf tournament at Santee National Golf Resort, where sponsors and participants have helped raise more than \$500,000 for college scholarships. For more information, email clyburnfoundation@yahoo.com, or call Janice Marshall, at 803-255-0003.

■ Nov. 5-10: The 17th annual cycling and family festival,

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