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To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, August 25, 2014

SC Front Pages – Monday, August 25, 2014



SPORTS LEGGETT'S NEW IMAGE



LIFESTYLE Shielding kids from social media

The Greenville News

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MONDAY,
AUGUST 25, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY HEART GROUP CALLS ON FDA TO REGULATE E-CIGARETTES PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

Deputy is put on leave after incident

Video shows suspect being hit while on floor

By Anna Lee

Staff writer
alee@greenvillenews.com

A Greenville County deputy has been placed on administrative leave after witnesses filmed him striking a man who was being held on the floor of the Wal-Mart on White Horse Road, authorities said Sunday.

Sheriff's Office spokesman Jonathan Smith said the deputy's use of force while making the arrest Saturday is under investigation internally. He also said he wouldn't comment on the videos shared on social media that show a man being



Sandon
Matthew
Sierad

punched repeatedly in the head.

Warrants identified the man as Sandon Matthew Sierad, 32, of 6 Cotton St., Greenville, who was charged with resisting arrest, assault and battery third degree and public disorderly conduct.

The man had been inside the store for 30 minutes before authorities were called to Wal-Mart about a disturbance just after 1 p.m., Smith said.

He said the man showed "er-

atic behavior" based on discussions with employees and the man's own call to 9-1-1 in which he told dispatchers his truck was missing while standing next to it.

Wal-Mart security film released Sunday by the Sheriff's Office shows an encounter with authorities in the parking lot during which warrants said the man reached twice for a knife one deputy kept clipped to his chest plate.

The whole time the man kept telling that deputy, "I'm 9-1-1," Smith said.

The man couldn't answer questions and at one point



PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

Master Deputy Jonathan Smith, the public information officer for the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, discusses the incident involving an officer and suspect at the Wal-Mart on White Horse Road in Greenville.

See DEPUTY, Page 4A

CYBER EDUCATION BOOTS UP AGAIN



Parents and students of South Carolina Virtual Charter School assemble for a "Meet and Greet" at Cleveland Park in Greenville.

Online programs growing, despite challenges

By Ron Barnett | Staff writer | rbarnett@greenvillenews.com

As thousands of Upstate children hopped in big yellow school buses and headed off to big brick schoolhouses last week, the state's virtual schools hit the "on" button and booted up another year of cyber education.

South Carolina was ahead of the curve six years ago when its first three online schools went into operation through the statewide Charter School District. The state attracted national attention from the North American Council for Online Learning for its "virtual big bang."

The virtual schools started in 2008 with 2,175 students. This year, there are twice as many virtual schools and more than four times as many students enrolled in them.

The results have been mixed.

See ONLINE, Page 4A

American held captive in Syria for almost two years freed. NATION, A6

Mount P. couple offer their own take on bottle opener, eating utensil

BUSINESS, D3

Porter-Gaud grad ready for junior year with Clemson

SPORTS, C1

The Post and Courier

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MONDAY, August 25, 2014

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BUILDING THE FUTURE

How the Charleston metro area is growing and changing



Urban planners and land conservationists believe urban-style development in some suburban areas, such as The Boulevard apartments on Mount Pleasant's Coleman Boulevard, improve the area and reduce suburban sprawl. Residents of some areas targeted for such developments, however, often disagree.

Gathering discontent

Neighbors react angrily as dense developments seek to transform suburbs

BY DAVID SLADE
dslade@postandcourier.com

As greater Charleston's population rises fast, local planners are trying to channel more people into developed areas, to the dismay of some already living there.

Inside
James Islanders worry for stormwater basin 'garden' **Page A3**

The goal is to give some suburbs a makeover, more like a town's "main street" and less like busy roads lined with shopping centers and parking lots. "Gathering places" is how Charleston has described such areas — urban-style growth focused on people, not cars.

Developers love the concept because they get to build more units per acre.

Conservationists are in favor.



Poll
What do you think about the idea of driving more growth in already developed areas? Find this story at postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

because steering growth to developed areas can reduce sprawl. But in Mount Pleasant and on Johns and James Islands, there have been protests by residents who fear that large apartment complexes and tall buildings threaten the character of their communities.

"Where do they get the idea that this is what people want?" said Pat Welch, who lives across Maybank Highway from a 285-apartment complex under construction on James Island. "My driveway lines

Please see **BUILDING**, Page A4



James Island residents (from left) Robin Welch, Kay Sawyer and Amy Robertson protest plans for a large apartment complex on Maybank Highway in January.

Health law may bring bitter pill at tax time

Rising income could trim refund

BY RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Taxes? Who wants to think about taxes around Labor Day?

But if you count on your tax refund and you're one of the millions getting tax credits to help pay health insurance premiums under President Barack Obama's law, it's not too early.

Here's why: If your income for 2014 is going to be higher than you estimated when you applied for health insurance, then complex connections between the health law and taxes can reduce or even eliminate your tax refund next year.

Maybe you're collecting more commissions in an improving economy. Or your spouse got a better job. It could trigger an unwelcome surprise.

The danger is that as your income grows, you don't qualify for as much of a tax credit. Any difference will come

Please see **TAXES**, Page A5

Weighing galaxies a dark matter for science

BY BO PETERSEN
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

The universe keeps ballooning. The farthest galaxy found so far — in June — is nearly 10 billion light years away. But the Milky Way just might be visible.

That's the recent finding of a group of astronomers led by the University of Edinburgh in a first-of-its-kind measurement of galaxy mass. Our home galaxy weighs only about half as much as the neighboring Andromeda, a galaxy similar to the Milky Way.

"We always suspected that Andromeda is more massive than the Milky Way, but weighing both galaxies proved to be extremely challenging," said university physicist and astronomer Jorge Penarrubia in a news release by the AAS science society. They figured it out by measuring the relative motions.

Please see **GALAXY**, Page A5

Strong earthquake in California shakes up famed wine country

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press

NAPA, CALIF. — The San Francisco Bay Area's strongest earthquake in 25 years struck the heart of California's wine country early Sunday, igniting gas-led fires, damaging some of the region's famed wineries and historic buildings, and sending more than 120 people to hospitals.

The magnitude 6.0 quake, centered near the city of Napa, in one of the Victorian-era buildings nestled in the vineyard-studded hills of northern California, ruptured water mains and gas lines, hampering firefighters' efforts to extinguish the blazes that

broke out after the tremor struck at 3:20 a.m.

Dazed residents who had run out of their homes in the dark and were too fearful of aftershocks to go back to bed wandered through Napa's historic downtown, where boulder-sized chunks of rubble and broken glass littered the streets.

Dozens of homes and buildings across the Napa Valley were left unsafe to occupy, including an old county courthouse, where a 10-foot wide hole opened a view of the offices inside.

College student Eduardo Rivera said the home he shares with six relatives shook so violently that he kept

getting knocked back into his bed as he tried to flee.

"When I woke up, my mom was screaming, and the sound from the earthquake was greater than my mom's screams," the 20-year-old Rivera said.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for southern Napa County, directing state agencies to respond with equipment and personnel. President Barack Obama was briefed on the earthquake, the White House said, and federal officials were in touch with state and local emergency responders.

Please see **EARTHQUAKE**, Page A5



Winemaker Tom Montgomery stands in wine and reacts to seeing damage following an earthquake at the B.R. Cohn Winery barrel storage facility on Sunday in Napa, Calif.



Partly sunny
High 83, Low 68
Complete 5-day
forecast **D8**

Business...D3 Editor's...A11 Editor's...D2
Classifieds...D6 Horoscope...D7 South...D1
Comics...B6, 7 Local News...D2 Sports...C1
Columns...B6, 10 Movies...D5 Television...D4

Charleston
Deals today

Run or Dye
\$22 fee race entry for one
See A2

USC FOOTBALL:
Gamecocks eager
to show what they
can do. **B1**



The State

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014 | THESTATE.COM



Randy Smith in his dirt-track race car

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spinout-turned-fisticuffs at Chester dirt track headed for federal trial

By ANDREW DYS
adys@online.com

CHESTER—Nobody died five years ago at a dirt track in Chester. But like the recent incident involving NASCAR star Tony Stewart—which started with a pointed finger and ended with death—there was a crash and finger-pointing and a con-

frontation.

Only in Chester, on Sept. 12, 2009, the driver who was upset at being wrecked and pointed a finger and advanced on another driver was tackled on the track by three Chester County sheriff's deputies in front of a couple thousand fans.

SEE TRACK PAGE A6

GAME WEEK

When football flies the skies

City's downtown airport also gets
caught up in Gamecock fever

By HARRISON CAHILL
hcahill@thestate.com

From Clemson Tiger paws painted on the bottom of aircraft wings to flight crews decked out in Tennessee Volunteer Orange, there isn't much the staff at Jim Hamilton/L.B. Owens Airport hasn't seen when it comes to football fans flying into Columbia for gameday.

Jim Hamilton, former airport director, said it is interesting to see the extent in which some fans will go. "One guy from Tennessee would fly in with

SEE SKIES PAGE A9

YOUR WEEK

It begins Thursday. The Gamecocks take on Texas A&M in a 6 p.m. opener at Williams-Brice. It's the inaugural game broadcast on the SEC Network. Check out Page A12 for game-related events, and check back daily on thestate.com/gocolumbia for more to do in the Midlands.



BOB THOMPSON/STOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

From left, Miranda Millerick, Abbey Sims and Liz Sharpe take a selfie with fellow Alpha Delta Pi sorority members.



HARRISON CAHILL/THE STATE

A Delta Zeta contingent waits for their sorority's new members.



BOB THOMPSON/STOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

Newly crowned members of Zeta Tau Alpha pose on the steps of Longstreet Theatre Sunday. Said one: "To be a part of a sisterhood and to be a part of a new family is so exciting."

Racing toward a new sisterhood

Excitement, tears, nostalgia on USC's Horseshoe as sororities
welcome enthusiastic new members

By HARRISON CAHILL
hcahill@thestate.com

The historic — and normally quiet — Horseshoe at the heart of the University of South Carolina's

to welcome incoming freshmen into USC Greek life.

Thousands of onlookers formed a human tunnel lining the steps of the McKissick Museum and cutting through the brick pathways

Bennett Holland of Pinchurst, N.C., said she was glad she could find her new sisters of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority after running through the tunnel.

"It was so nerve-racking," Hol-

"It means the world to me that I get to share the love of my sisters with new sisters today," Brown said.

Of the 1,655 girls who went through the recruitment process for the 2014-2015 school year, just over 1,400 would be inducted as new members, said Mary Cate Duffy, a senior Delta Zeta member.

"You're realizing that you get the

THESTATE.COM

Watch the chaos during the Bid Day Run, a tradition as USC freshmen learn which sorority

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

MONDAY, August 25, 2014

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New captains 'feel right at home'

Salvation Army's newest members adjust to life in Aiken

BY DEDE BILES

dbiles@aikenstandard.com

David Phelps and his family have only been living in Aiken since June, but it hasn't taken long for them to adjust to life here. "We already feel right at home," he said.

Phelps and his wife, Amber, are in charge at The Salvation Army of Aiken. They both hold the rank of captain, and they both are 34 years old.

"From what we've seen so far, The Army, locally, is very well respected," Phelps said. "I think the people in Aiken trust us to do what we say

we are going to do."

The Phelpses, who have two daughters, replaced Majors David and Angela Repass, who received a new assignment with The Salvation Army of Horry County earlier this year.

"Because The Salvation Army has a quasi-military structure, you know

that every two to five years, you are liable to be transferred, so this is just the normal moving around," Phelps said.

It helped that he and his wife were already familiar with the area because they had worked in a number of other places in North and South Carolina previously, including Char-

lotte, Burlington and Greenwood.

"We also both are originally from small southern cities like Aiken," Phelps said. "I'm from Columbus in northeast Mississippi, and Amber is from Pascagoula on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi."

Please see **ARMY**, Page 4A

INSIDE TODAY



Palace Malice won't run in Woodward Stakes

Sports, 1B



South Korea wins Little League World Series

Sports, 1B



Downtown offers bargains for the fall

Local News, 2A

Christian store coming to the Aiken Mall

Local News, 3A

AREA DEATHS

Ethel Mae "Dahlin" Lloyd, Aiken
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER



SRR line manager explains her work scope

STAFF PHOTO BY DERREK ASBERRY

Lisa Amidon, SRR first-line manager for the tank farms at the Savannah River Site, discusses work with Control Room Operator Tory Bowman, sitting, and Andre Durham, a shift operations manager.



STAFF PHOTO BY DERREK ASBERRY

Lisa Amidon, SRR first-line manager for the tank farms at the Savannah River Site, explains work at one of the waste tanks outlined by the yellow huts.

BY DERREK ASBERRY
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

As Lisa Amidon stood on a structure high enough to overlook the massive, H Area Tank Farm at the Savannah River Site, she explained that right now, Savannah River Remediation, the liquid waste contractor, is processing waste, getting batches ready to send to the necessary facilities and closing waste tanks.

Amidon is a first-line manager in the tank farms and is one of the main cogs in a group of about 150 employees.

This week, she sat down with the *Aiken Standard* and explained her individual duties, as well as the contractor's, or SRR, collaborative goal of treating waste and closing waste tanks.

Once I feel comfortable with what happened during the evening, I go up to the control room. I work very closely with the employees in the control room. Their job is essential to all of the work we do here.

Lisa Amidon, SRR first-line manager

Starting at 5:30 a.m.

"Every morning I get in at 5:30 a.m., and I get a morning report that includes logs, tank levels, and other information," she said.

Amidon explained that there shift managers that swap in and out

throughout the day and night who also give each other status updates.

Meetings and updates are a huge part of the contractor's process, she said.

"They really help me because my job is to lay out the plan so that they all they have to do in the field is execute their work," said Amidon.

In the control room

"Once I feel comfortable with what happened during the evening, I go up to the control room," Amidon said.

The control room staffs 22 operators, four supervisors, a control room manager and a shift manager.

Amidon said that the people in the room are extremely confident in their roles. She explained that much of the liquid waste work that the contractor does can be traced to the control room. There, workers are controlling several pieces of equipment and literally controlling where materials are supposed to go. In addition, workers monitor the liquid waste tanks.

Please see **SRR**, Page 4A

'Remember When' means





HIGH: 85
LOW: 72
Weather, 4B

\$10 for \$20 toward pizza and more on Hilton Head at dealsaver.com/Beaufort

JOURNALIST FREED

Al-Qaida-linked group in Syria releases Peter Theo Curtis, kidnapped nearly 2 years ago **6A**



The Beaufort Gazette

MONDAY, August 25, 2014

beaufortgazette.com

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California quake leaves damage, injuries

Magnitude-6.0 temblor is Bay Area's largest in 25 years

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and LISA LEFF
The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — The San Francisco Bay Area's strongest earthquake in 25 years struck the heart of California's wine country early Sunday, igniting gas-fed fires, damaging some of the region's famed wineries and historic buildings, and sending dozens of people to hospitals.

The magnitude-6.0 quake, centered near the city of Napa, an oasis of Victorian-era buildings nestled in

the vineyard-studded hills of northern California, ruptured water mains and gas lines, hampering firefighters' efforts to extinguish the blazes that broke out after the temblor struck at 3:20 a.m.

Dazed residents who had run out of their homes in the dark and were too fearful of aftershocks to go back to bed wandered through Napa's historic downtown, where boulder-sized chunks of rubble and broken glass littered the streets. Dozens of homes and buildings across the Na-

pa Valley were left unsafe to occupy, including an old county courthouse, where a 10-foot-wide hole opened a view of the offices inside.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for southern Napa County, directing state agencies to respond with equipment and personnel. President Barack Obama was briefed on the earthquake, the White House said, and federal officials were in touch with state and local

Please see **QUAKE** on 9A



Pedestrians stop to examine a crumbling facade at the Vintner's Collective tasting room in Napa, Calif., following an earthquake on Sunday.

The Associated Press

'the CURRENT was just CRAZY'



THEOPHIL SYLO • Staff photo

Kurt Fineis of Beaufort pulls his Bonito sailboat toward the Pigeon Point dock Sunday as his pet Lab, Maizy, makes a dive for shore after a local boater towed them from the Beaufort River area. "The current was just crazy," Fineis said. At about 4 p.m. Sunday, the National Weather Service in Charleston issued a high-risk advisory for Beaufort County for rip currents, which can be hazardous for swimmers. The advisory is in effect through this evening.

RIVERVIEW CHARTER

District, school close in on deal

By SARAH BOWMAN
sbowman@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8138

After months of negotiations and several rejected proposals, Riverview Charter School is nearing an agreement with the Beaufort County School District to make its current home a permanent one.

The district plans to help by lending the school \$30 million.

The charter school occupies the former Shell Point Elementary School in the town of Port Royal. Although it wouldn't own the property, Riverview would lease the building long-term and renovate it to accommodate growing enrollment.

The discussion is now down to the details.

At a recent school board Finance Committee meeting, board members and district officials discussed with Riverview representatives the terms of the agreement, including the lease amount and repayment schedule for the district's loan to renovate and expand the school building.

Please see **RIVERVIEW** on 9A

New bully-reporting app raises questions on usage

By SARAH BOWMAN
sbowman@beaufortgazette.com
843-706-8138

REPORT BULLYING ONLINE
To report bullying in the Beaufort County School District anonymously,

SC Rep. behind Obama lawsuit

By ALI WATKINS
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Behind the tangled web of partisanship surrounding Republicans' impending lawsuit against President Barack



Speaker John Boehner's shadow.

"I filed a bill in December that was essentially the same terms. I went out and worked

and the Republican-majority House decided to throw a curve ball at the Oval Office.

The proposal for a civil suit was already in play, thanks to Rice, but rather than take up the South Car-



Some sun,
less humid
High 83
Low 62

Herald-Journal

MONDAY

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BILL BOYCE/AP

The Rev. Al Sharpton, right, introduces the parents of slain teen Michael Brown, Lewisley McSpadden, left, and Michael Brown Sr., center to the crowd at Peace Fest on Sunday in St. Louis. "Tomorrow all I want is peace," Brown Sr. said.

Slain teen's father asks for peace

Michael Brown's funeral service slated for today

By SARA BURNETT
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The father of a black 18-year-old shot to death by a white police officer in Ferguson pleaded Sunday for a "day of silence" as he lays his son to rest today.

"Tomorrow, all I want is peace," Michael Brown Sr. told hundreds of people in St. Louis' largest city park during brief remarks at a festival that promotes peace over violence. "That's all I ask."

The more than two weeks since Michael Brown's death have been marked by nightly protests, some violent and chaotic, although tensions have eased in recent days.

Brown Sr. told the crowd that he and his son's mother appreciate the love and support they've received from the community. The Rev. Al Sharpton, who will speak at the funeral, echoed his request for peace.

"We don't want anything tomorrow to happen that might defile the name of Michael Brown," Sharpton said. "This is not about our rage tomorrow. It's about the legacy and memory of his son."

Lesley McSpadden, Michael Brown's mother, appeared on stage with Sharpton, who told the crowd that McSpadden and her family saw Brown's body for the first time Sunday since the day of the shooting.

After McSpadden took the microphone, she broke down and covered her face with her left hand. The crowd began to chant, "We love you. We love you. We love you." McSpadden composed herself for a moment and softly said, "Thank

Major quake rocks California

120 injured in Bay Area; historic buildings damaged in wine country

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — The San Francisco Bay Area's strongest earthquake in 25 years struck the heart of California's wine country early Sunday, igniting gas-fueled fires, damaging some of the region's famed wineries and historic buildings, and sending more than 120 people to hospitals.

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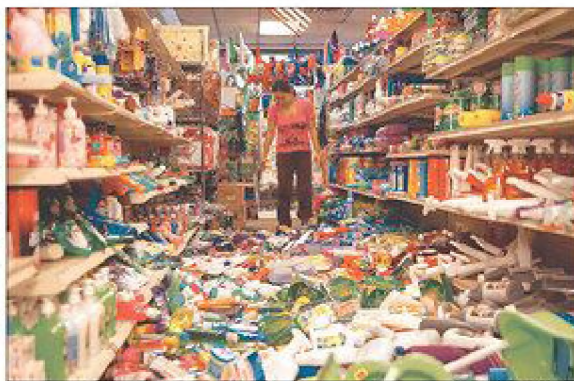
Dazed residents who had run out of their homes in the dark and were too fearful of aftershocks to go back to bed wandered through Napa's historic downtown, where boulder-sized chunks of rubble and broken glass littered the streets. Dozens of homes and buildings across the Napa Valley were left unsafe to occupy, including an old county courthouse, where a 10-foot-wide hole opened a view of the offices inside.

College student Eduardo Rivera said the home he shares with six relatives shook so violently that he kept getting knocked back into his bed as he tried to flee.

◆ SEE QUAKE PAGE A9



GARY REYES/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT



ALEX WASHBURN/AP

Above, A firefighter from the Napa City Fire Department pulls water hoses in front of a destroyed home at a mobile home park on Orchard Avenue after a 6.0 earthquake in Napa, Calif., on Sunday. Four homes were destroyed by fire in this complex.

At left, Nina Quidit cleans up the Dollar Plus and Party Supplies Store in American Canyon, Calif., after the earthquake. Quidit and her husband were woken up in the early morning hours by the store's alarm company and immediately drove in to begin cleaning up.

BUILDING THE BLUEWAY



Greenwood man killed in wreck

From staff reports

A Greenwood man died in a single-vehicle crash Sunday night in Abbeville County.

Officials from the Abbeville County

Coroner's Office identified the victim as Jonathan McClure, 34, of 108 Old Woodlawn Road. Pathologists are expected to examine his body Monday.

According to preliminary reports

from the South Carolina Highway Patrol, McClure was driving a 2005 Mini Cooper when the crash occurred just after 6 p.m. along U.S. Highway 178 about a mile east of Honea Path. The victim was traveling

east when his vehicle veered off the right side of the road, struck a utility pole and slammed into a culvert.

McClure, who was the only person in the crash during the collision, died at the scene, SChP Lance Cpl. Gary

Müller said. He was entrapped in the vehicle and emergency crews had to extract him. He was not wearing a seatbelt at the time.

Highway Patrol is still investigating the crash.

Fire guts The Ranch



Greenwood County fire departments and emergency medical personnel respond to a fire Sunday at The Ranch Pizza Palace.

(FRANK BUMB) / INDEX-JOURNAL

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

A fire gutted a local pizza parlor Sunday afternoon. Fortunately, no one was injured and the fire did not spread to adjoining businesses.

According to Greenwood County

fire coordinator Steve Holmes, three fire departments responded with fire trucks and personnel from six departments responded to a call at about 4:45 p.m.

Alex Roberts, working in the parking lot near The Ranch Pizza Palace said he saw first white and then black

smoke billow over the restaurant.

"At first, I thought Kmart was on fire," Roberts said. "I didn't see any people come out of there."

Holmes said The Ranch Pizza Palace was closed Sunday and there were no injuries or fatalities. While there were no injuries, the business suffered

a great deal of damage.

"The fire started in the area of the deep fryer," Holmes said. "There's extreme fire damage to the kitchen area and extensive smoke and heat damage to the dining area."

Holmes said the fire remains under investigation.

■ SC EDUCATION

General campaign for schools chief starts

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

MYRTLE BEACH — The general election campaign for South Carolina superintendent of education is underway with the three candidates agreeing Sunday improvements are needed but exchanging gibes and disagreeing about who can get the job done.

"One of my colleagues up here has been the director of School Administrators Association for nine years and I'm not seeing school improvement in those nine years," American Party candidate Ed Murray told about 300 people

See CAMPAIGN, page 4A

■ NEW INITIATIVE

It's time for communities to unite

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

It's the first of many to come.

It's a day for the community to unite, discuss concerns, find resources, knock down barriers, learn, connect and, of course, have a great time doing it.

The Social Change Initiative, in partnership with Greenwood and Abbeville County First Steps, will play host to The Day of Unity at Brewer Field in Greenwood from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

Serving Greenwood, Abbeville, Newberry and Laurens counties, The Social Change Initiative is a nonprofit organization that equips families with the skills and knowledge needed to promote long-term

See UNITE, page 4A

'Reality of hurting hearts'

Derrick Rash is new investigator at Coroner's Office

A CLOSER LOOK





Morning News

MONDAY AUGUST 25, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly sunny and clear.
High 87, low 63.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

General election race for education chief starts

BY BRUCE SMITH
The Associated Press

MYRTLE BEACH — The general election campaign for South Carolina superintendent of education is underway, with the three candidates agreeing Sunday that improvements are needed but exchanging gibes and disagreeing over who can get the job done.

"One of my colleagues up here has been the director of School Administrators Association for nine years, and I'm not seeing school improvement in those nine years," American Party candidate Ed Murray told about 300 people attending a forum held by the South Carolina School Boards Association.

Sitting next to him was Republican Molly Spearman of Saluda, the former director of the school administrators group who emerged from an eight-way June primary to win the GOP nomination.

"Party matters" in public education, said Democrat Tom Thompson, a former dean of graduate studies at South Carolina State University who bested three other Democrats in the primary.

"You can have the state superintendent of education say one thing, but the party behind that person has to be consistent with what the state superintendent says," he added, in a comment directed at Republicans, some of whom favor taxpayer vouchers for private-school students.

Spearman, meanwhile, said the way to improve education is for people to work together.

"The job and our efforts are too important for us to squabble and not get along," she said. "I have worked hard over my career never to burn bridges."

The American Party was founded by former Superintendent of Education Jim Rex as a way of getting things done without the ideological barriers of being Republican or Democrat, said Murray, the athletic director and an assistant principal at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School.

The candidates discussed a number of issues:



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The candidates for South Carolina superintendent of education attend a forum Sunday in Myrtle Beach. The three candidates are (from left) Democrat Tom Thompson, Republican Molly Spearman and the American Party's Ed Murray.

See **EDUCATION**, Page 3A

Night watchman

Jon Gause looks after the Colonial Inn every night; he watches over Florence, too

BY VEASEY CONWAY
Morning News
vconway@floridamorningnews.com

FLORENCE — Jon Gause doesn't know how to run other motels, he said one recent night. "But I know how to run the Colonial Inn," he said.

Gause — 54, married with three kids — works the midnight-to-8:30 a.m. shift at the motel on South Irby Street. He owns the place. His wife, Carol, works the day shift.

Gause's knowledge, built up over years of experience (he can't remember how many), is crucial to successfully handling the business and upkeep needs of the independent motel. Just as important, though, is knowing how to thrive when the rest of the immediate world is sleeping.

"For some people it could be miserable, the loneliness, but I've never found it that way," he said. "I look at it as my time, just to think on things. It's the best thing there is to get away from it all."

A shift punctuated by an occasional late-night check-in and early-morning wake-up calls also includes ample time for books (the Bible and otherwise), television and the radio.

"Sometimes it can get so quiet," Gause said. "(Irby Street) is a major road, and there's not a car on it. You look both ways and it's just so quiet."

The motel office, composed of more glass than wall, gives a wide field of view. Binoculars sit on a shelf.

"I really do feel like I'm kind of a watchman for the city," he said. "I don't hesitate to call the police if I see something that doesn't look right."



PHOTOS BY VEASEY CONWAY/MORNING NEWS

ABOVE: Jon Gause stands in the office of the Colonial Inn motel Thursday. "I enjoy my time alone," he said. "It's all a frame of mind. If you get your mind right you can do anything." BELOW: Much of the motel still runs on paper. "My dad used to cover this office with probably six or seven employees," Gause said. "My wife and I pretty much do it by ourselves with just a couple of part-time helpers."



Graying of prisons will cost state's taxpayers

BY GASSIE COPE
The (Columbia) State

COLUMBIA — An inmate at Camille Griffin Graham Correctional Institution for women keeps a wheelchair tucked away in the corner of her small, cinder-block cell.

She has a walker, too. The wheelchair and walker are just two of the signs of the exploding population of aging inmates in South Carolina's prisons.

Another sign? The dollar sign, as in the increasing cost that S.C. taxpayers will have to pay to care for those aging inmates.

In the past decade, the number of S.C. inmates age 55 and older has more than doubled, according to the S.C. Corrections Department. At the end of June, one in every 11 inmates was 55 or older.

The graying of the state's prison system will continue, experts warn. Barring changes in the state's parole system, they add that the aging prison population stands to become even more expensive for taxpayers to support.

"We've passed policies and laws that have dictated we ... want our prisons to become nursing homes," said Jon Ozmint, the Columbia lawyer who was head of the state's prison system under former Gov. Mark Sanford.

Those policies and laws come with a cost to taxpayers.

It costs about twice as much nationally to house a prisoner over 50 as it does the average prisoner.

"Do we really want to keep them (inmates) in prison until they die?" Ozmint asked rhetorically. "It feels good. It makes a certain segment of society feel good."

"But it's a costly proposition." S.C. prisons officials say they do not break out costs according to a prisoner's age. But there are indications that some of the higher costs of a graying prison system already are falling to the bottom line.

In 2003, the state of South Caroli-



Odd

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The semicircle fountain in front of the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Student and Community Life Center was donated by the OCtech Foundation in 2007.

100 OBJECTS IN 100 DAYS

Fountain at college
donated by OCtech
Foundation in 2007

T&D Staff Report

Visitors and students since 2007 have been welcomed to Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College by a semi-circle fountain located in front of the Student and Community Life Center.

The fountain was presented to the college by the OCtech Foundation in honor of its 30th anniversary, according to Executive Director Faith McCarry.

"We wanted to create a landmark on campus visible from Highway 601 that presented an inviting presence and provided a place for students to go and relax," she said.

"It's a welcoming point in the middle of campus for visitors and new students and is visible day and night. It's lit at night," McCarry said.

The fountain has been part

of numerous community celebrations.

Several years ago, the water in the fountain was colored pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Week. Some years before that, it was dyed green in observance of St. Patrick's Day.

This May, visitors to the campus may have been surprised to see the fountain filled with yellow rubber ducks. Each duck represented a \$20 donation to a scholarship drive, McCarry said.

The fountain was designed and constructed by Hay Hill Services.

"It was very important to the foundation that local people be involved in the construction and design of the fountain," McCarry said.

A local firm also landscaped the area around the fountain, she said.

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Record cleared, PTA leader still not satisfied

By DALE LINDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

A former Parent-Teacher Association president accused of threatening the principal at his child's school has had his record cleared, but he still isn't satisfied.

Linnell Davis Jr. was charged with third-degree assault and battery and threatening the life of a public official in February 2013, after a confrontation with Brookdale Elementary School Principal Dr. Charlene Stokes.

Stokes told officers Davis refused to sign in at the office as he was walking his daughter to class. She also said he hit her arm and threatened her.

But Davis said he had signed in and only pushed Stokes' hand away when she grabbed his arm. He also denied threatening her.

The charges were dismissed last year, and earlier this year the Orangeburg solicitor's office instructed local law enforcement agencies that all records relating to the Davis arrest should be "dismissed, expunged and immediately destroyed."

The First Circuit Solicitor's Office would not comment on the case since, once records are destroyed, it's as if they never existed.

Bill Clark, spokesman for Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5, said the district is "satisfied that due process was served and considers the matter to be closed."

But Davis said he's still not satisfied because his life was turned upside down by the incident.

He was removed as president of the Brookdale Parent-Teacher's Association and lost the respect of the community, he said.

He also blames the incident for the loss of his business and the breakup of his marriage. He's now living in another state.

According to Davis, he would rather have gone to court where he could publicly defend himself.

His former attorney, Byron Gibson said earlier that Davis has suffered a loss of public respect. For one thing, Davis started a baseball club in the community, but after he was arrested parents were leery of letting him work with their kids, Gibson said.

Contact the writer: dlinder-altman@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5529.



Linnell Davis Jr. says the incident last year at Brookdale Elementary School turned his life upside down.

School consolidation hearing set for today at Lake Marion High

T&D Staff Report

SANTEE — Residents will have another chance to express their thoughts on the proposed consolidation of Orangeburg County's three school districts into one.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. today at the Lake Marion High School auditorium. The public is encouraged to participate.

Rep. Gilda Cobb Hunter, D-Orangeburg, will lead the discussion.

Consolidation hearings have been held throughout the county over the past couple of months at Dover Elementary School, Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School and Branchville High School.

Concerns have been raised as to whether all schools will be treated fairly, jobs will be cut, bus routes will be longer and schools will close.

Sens. John Matthews, D-Bowman, and Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, introduced a bill that would consolidate Orangeburg County's school districts during the last legislative session.

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