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Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, September 11, 2014

SC Front Pages – Thursday, September 11, 2014

FINAL EDITION

Harrell indictment brings calls to resign

House speaker faces charges related to campaign money

By Tim Smith

Staff Writer
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — House Speaker Bobby Harrell used his campaign account for tens of thousands of dollars in personal expenses, prosecutors are alleging in a nine-count indictment.

Harrell, one of the Legislature's most powerful leaders, used more than \$70,000 for salary paid to an administrative assistant for his private insurance business, and used the campaign account "to pay credit card debt and to pay for goods or services for his home, family and friends that were not for any purposes related to his campaign for or position in the South Carolina

House of Representatives," the indictment by a Richland County grand jury alleges.

The indictment issued Wednesday also alleges a series of reimbursements Harrell made to himself that paid in part for "non-existent" trips.

The 58-year-old Republican, leader of the House since 2005, said he hasn't intentionally violated any law and hasn't benefited personally or financially from travel reimbursements from his campaign.

"In fact, I have regularly used the privately raised funds from my campaign account to pay for official state travel instead of passing that cost along to taxpayers," Harrell said in a statement.

"Similarly, I have often used my own airplane, at no cost to the taxpayers, for official state travel when it would have been completely justifiable to have used the tax-

See HARRELL, Page 4A



Dallas-based Trammell Crow Co. has The Greenville News property under contract and says major retailers are involved.

Developer brings heft

Trammell Crow most prominent among 8 firms that have announced downtown projects in past 2½ years

By Rudolph Bell

Staff writer
rbell@greenvillenews.com

At least eight out-of-town developers have announced projects for downtown Greenville over the past 2½ years, but none is more prominent than Trammell Crow Co.

The Dallas-based firm, which has put The Greenville News property under contract, was founded in 1948 by the late Trammell Crow, a legend in the business whose many high-profile developments include Peachtree Center in Atlanta.

Today the company has offices in 16 U.S. cities and has developed or acquired nearly 2,600 buildings, according to its website.

Its long list of developments includes a two-building, 1.3 million-square-foot complex along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., a

29-story office tower in Houston occupied by Hess Corp., and an industrial building near Portland that houses The Boeing Co.'s drone subsidiary.

And now Trammell Crow has plans for downtown Greenville.

It is proposing a big mixed-use development on nearly four acres fronting Main Street directly across from the Peace Center and next to Falls Park.

The Greenville News, which has been located on the property since 1937, plans to occupy other space downtown, though it has not yet said where.

Larry Pantlin, managing director in Trammell Crow's Atlanta office, said he wasn't at liberty to disclose details of his company's development plans because talks are at a "very fluid and sensitive point."

But he did say major retailers are

involved.

Asked what drew Trammell Crow's attention to the property, Pantlin said, "Certain major retailers in particular have indicated to me some serious interest in this downtown, and that perked me up in a big way."

The proposed development would also include a hotel, offices and housing, Pantlin said.

He also said it has the potential to draw a corporate headquarters and that he hopes to have construction under way by early summer of next year.

"My team and I need to have more conversations with the city, make sure what we have as a vision and a concept squares with their vision and their desires," he said. "I'm very, very sensitive to that."

Pantlin said Trammell Crow was drawn to Greenville by its "special" downtown, its robust business community and its position halfway between Charlotte and Atlanta on Inter-

See TRAMMELL, Page 6A

Father faces charges in 5 kids' deaths

By Jeffrey Collins

and Jay Reeves
The Associated Press

PINE APPLE, Ala. — Their little bodies shrouded in plastic bags, the five children of Timothy Ray Jones Jr. had been dead for days by the time he led investigators to the spot where they had been dumped among dead trees and scrub brush.

The children's journey to that isolated hilltop in central Alabama crisscrossed several Southeastern states as Jones drove his Cadillac Escalade around for days, using bleach to try to mask the smell of the decomposing bodies, authorities said Wednesday.

Jones was arrested Saturday at a DUI checkpoint in Mississippi, about 300 miles from his hometown of Lexington, South Carolina. An officer said he "smelled the stench of death" along with chemicals used to make methamphetamine and synthetic marijuana. Jones was acting strangely and appeared "somewhat disoriented," said Lewis McCarty, the acting sheriff in Lexington.

The divorce between Jones and his wife, Amber, finalized 11 months ago, included multiple allegations of adultery against the woman and resulted in the children bouncing back and forth between their home in South Carolina and northeastern Mississippi, where Jones' family lives.

A therapist who saw the man more than two years ago described him as "highly intelligent" and responsible, yet emotionally devastated and angry over his wife's alleged infidelity, court records show. Still, authorities said they don't know why the children were slain, or how, or exactly when. Autopsies were scheduled to begin Thursday.

Jones, 32, confessed to killing his children, ages 1 to 8, and dumping their bodies in the secluded clearing, authorities said. The computer engineer was working for Intel when he disappeared with his children, the company said.

The sheriff said Jones will be charged with five counts of murder.

INSIDE

Sheriff: Five children killed at same time. 1B

CORRECTION

The Greenville News published incorrect information in a photo caption about a park planned on the site of the former Poe Mill. The park will be built by the Greenville County Recreation District.



Fall films bringing change of scenery

CHARLESTON SCENE, E1



NFL may have had Rice video since April

SPORTS, C1

The Post and Courier

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Harrell indicted

Calls mount for House Speaker to step aside

Misuse of campaign funds could lead to 18 years in prison

Says he 'never intentionally violated any law'



House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted by a grand jury Wednesday on nine ethics and misconduct charges.

BY SCHUYLER KROFF and JEREMY BORDEN
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jborden@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted by a grand jury Wednesday on nine ethics and misconduct charges, sparking calls from the governor and others for him to step aside from his leadership post until his legal troubles play out.

In an announcement that caught much of the state cold in its quick timing, Harrell was accused of a string of misdemeanor violations of state law, including charges that he doctored flight records, reimbursed himself for flights that he didn't take and unlawfully paid himself tens of thousands

of dollars from his campaign account. The charges were filed by 1st Circuit Solicitor David Pascoe, who inherited the Harrell case just weeks ago from S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson.

In all, they cover seven Ethics Act violations for using campaign funds for personal expenses, while two additional charges cover allegations of misconduct in office.

All of the charges against Harrell are considered misdemeanors, but one misconduct in office charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in state prison. If convicted on all counts, the Charleston Republican faces a maximum sentence of 18 years in prison and close to \$40,000 in fines.

Harrell did not return calls Wednesday but issued a statement saying he

"never intentionally violated any law, and I still strongly believe that statement to be accurate."

He added, "In no way have I ever benefited personally or financially from travel reimbursements from my campaign account. In fact, I have regularly used the privately raised funds from my campaign account to pay for official state travel instead of passing that cost along to taxpayers." Harrell also said he used his airplane, at no expense to taxpayers, for official state travel instead of using a taxpayer-funded plane.

His statement did not address whether he would fight the charges or fight to stay in office, but added, "I,

never intentionally violated any law, and I still strongly believe that statement to be accurate."

More coverage

EDITORIAL: Harrell should cede position
Page A10

POLL: Should House Speaker Bobby Harrell resign his seat following his indictment? Find this story at postandcourier.com/polls to vote.

READ MORE: To view the court documents and read previous coverage, find this story at palmettopolitics.com.

Please see HARRELL, Page A5

U.S. to expand airstrikes to Syria

BY JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Opening a new military front in the Middle East, President Barack Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes in Syria for the first time Wednesday night, along with expanded strikes in Iraq as part of "a steady, relentless effort" to root out Islamic State extremists and their spreading reign of terror.

"We will hunt down terrorists who threaten our country, wherever they are," Obama declared in a prime-time address to the nation from the White House. "This is a core principle of my presidency: If you threaten America, you will find no safe haven."



Obama

Please see OBAMA, Page A7

Police: Dad confessed to killing his 5 children

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
crolsan@postandcourier.com

LEXINGTON — A Lexington County man has admitted to killing his five children, and traveling three states with their bodies in garbage bags before dumping them in Alabama, authorities said Wednesday. Timothy Ray Jones, 32, confessed to Mississippi authorities that he had killed his children and dumped their bodies. On Tuesday, he led law enforcement to the children's resting place on a rural Alabama road.



Jones

Please see JONES, Page A6

Authorities: Man who shot deputies had military-style rifle, 'combative' past

BY ANDREW KNAPP
aknapp@postandcourier.com

Some police officers knew Michael Donovan Oswald as a combative man who drank alcohol, played loud music and got into bar fights.

Whenever someone he saw as a threat approached him, Oswald wouldn't hesitate to talk out and attack "because I was a man," he once said after a no-holds-barred fight. He boasted in court documents of 50 arrests in his past.

But when the Charleston County Sheriff's Office knocked on his door Monday in West Ashley, Oswald had a military-style rifle in his hands, and he used it to pepper the deputies with

bullets. For one lawman's protective vest, the high-velocity rounds were too powerful to handle.

Several bullets from the weapon similar to an AR-47 killed Deputy Joseph Matuskovic, 45, after they punctured his armor, Sheriff Al Cannon said Wednesday.

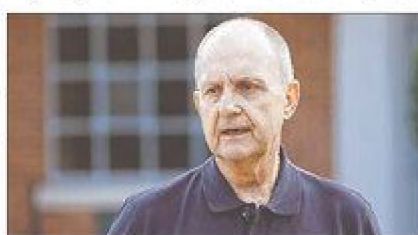
Through his own words, Oswald's troubled history was laid out in a 2009 lawsuit he filed in one of his fights. Revealed Wednesday, police records also showed his tendency to become

hostile with officers who responded to The Gardens at Ashley River on Carriage Lane and how neighbors had complained about his behavior in the hours before the fatal shooting.

Deputy Michael Ackerman, 43, was wounded by the rifle fire Monday, and an off-duty deputy also was hurt, Cannon said. Ackerman was expected to recover from a knee wound and has been using a walker to get around.

Oswald, 38, died after the authorities fired back through his closed door, hitting him twice.

The sheriff said the deputies' families, as well as Oswald's, had been struggling with the ordeal.



Sheriff Al Cannon discusses details Wednesday at the Charleston County Sheriff's Office of the Monday shooting that left one deputy dead.

Please see DEPUTIES, Page A6



Partly cloudy...
High 91, Low 72.
Complete 5-day
forecast B6

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See A2

The State

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STATE LEGISLATURE



House Speaker Bobby Harrell

S.C. House speaker faces 9 charges

'I have never intentionally violated any law,' Harrell responds to indictment

By JOHN MONK
jmonk@thestate.com

After months of trying to shut down an investigation into his use of campaign money, S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted Wednesday on nine charges, including illegally using campaign money for his personal expenses, filing false campaign disclosure reports and misconduct in office.

It was the first time in memory that a sitting

INSIDE

At least four House Republicans considering running for speaker. **Page A6**

THESTATE.COM

Read the indictment, with this story online.

House speaker has been indicted. A Richland County grand jury issued the nine separate, single-count indictments. Shortly thereafter, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and several House members said Harrell should resign as speaker. Haley would not elaborate on why she thought her fellow Republican should step aside. But the pair have quarreled for years, dating back to her days as a state representative from Lexington when, she said, Harrell stripped her of a choice committee assignment.

Harrell, 58, has been regarded as an especially powerful speaker, controlling House members' committee appointments, and having strong ties to the state's judges and justices, who are elected by the General Assembly.

SEE HARRELL PAGE A6

LEXINGTON COUNTY TRAGEDY

Motive for killings remains unclear



GARY McLENNAN/CHARLESTONPOST-COASTAL.COM

Lexington County Sheriff Lewis McCarty answers questions Wednesday during a press conference about the killing of five children in Lexington County and the dumping of their bodies in Alabama.

WHAT WE KNOW

Bodies of the children were returned to S.C. on Wednesday. Autopsy information is expected Thursday or Friday.

WHAT'S NEXT

Jones will be transferred Thursday to a S.C. state prison from Mississippi, where he has been held since Saturday night.

THE CHILDREN

Grief counselors will be at the Lexington 1 school the older children attended.

Five victims, ages 1-8, identified; father to face murder charges

By HARRISON CABILL
hcabill@thestate.com

Law enforcement officials said Wednesday they still have no motive from the Lexington County father who will be charged in the killing of his five children in one of the largest mass slayings in recent Midlands history.

On Tuesday, Timothy Ray Jones Jr., 32, calmly led investigators from the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, State Law Enforcement Division and FBI to the rural Alabama site where he dumped the bodies of his five children, Sheriff Lewis McCarty said Wednesday.

The bodies of three boys and two girls — identified in divorce court records as Merah, 8; Elias, 7; Nahtahn, 6; Gabriel, 2; and Elaine Marie, 1 — were found in plastic garbage bags around 4-45 p.m. outside the town of Camden, Ala., according to investigators.

"He has not indicated why he did this," McCarty said, adding it's also unclear why the bodies were

INSIDE

How troubles in the Jones marriage led to divorce. **Page A6**

Why an AMBER Alert was not issued in the children's disappearance. **Page A6**

SEE TRAGEDY PAGE A5



THE WAR ON TERROR: 13 YEARS AFTER 9/11

TESTING AMERICA'S WILL TO WIN

Thirteen years ago today, the nation watched in confusion, then horror, as hijacked airliners

Today, even as a war-weary nation welcomes home the last of U.S. troops

comply during the past 13 years of war? Should the country send troops back

INSIDE

Columbia voices on the War on Terror. **Page A4**

MORE WAR

President Obama orders airstrikes in Syria as part of a campaign to destroy the Islamic State. **Page A3**

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TODAY'S DEAL

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, September 11, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 254 Aiken, S.C. ★ 75¢

Teacher charged in nude text

Cops: Educator forwarded naked photo of student



Wright

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

A Wagener-Salley High School teacher was arrested after he forwarded a student's nude photo to his cellphone and to the cellphones of other students and teachers, according to the Wagener

Police Department. Kevin Bernard Wright, 39, was charged on Sept. 2 with one count of communicating obscene messages to another person without consent, according to Chief Tom Gray, of the Wagener Police Department. He was placed in the Aiken County detention center but

had been released as of Wednesday afternoon. The incident happened July 24 at the high school, according to Gray. A 15-year-old male student left his cellphone in the classroom when he exited. "When the student left the classroom, (Wright) opened the student's telephone

and found a nude picture of that student in the phone and attempted to forward that picture to his personal cellphone," Gray said. "It went out in group text form and the picture went to numerous other people."

Please see **TEACHER**, Page 5A

Hazing lawsuit filed by Aiken native

Former soccer player for Clemson takes legal action

BY TEDDY KULMALA
tkulmala@aikenstandard.com

An Aiken native and former Clemson University soccer player has filed a lawsuit in which she alleges she suffered a traumatic brain injury that resulted from hazing by upperclassmen on the soccer team, which was covered up by athletic officials, according to court documents.

Haley Ellen Hunt filed the suit against Clemson women's soccer Head Coach Eddie Radwanski, former Athletic Director Terry Don Phillips, two team assistants, including former U.S. women's national team goalie Siri Mullinix and multiple other people, including 14 teammates.

'Severe' injuries

The complaint, filed Aug. 15 in Pickens County by Charleston attorney Robert Sumner IV, details a "hazing incident" that happened Aug. 18, 2011.

Please see **HAZING**, Page 5A

AREA DEATHS

Elizabeth Chambers Gannett, Aiken
Herman "Danny" Atkinson, Aiken
Lacey Colyer, Ridge Spring
Rev. Dr. Isaac Lewis, Aiken
Stewart Marvin Moore, Aiken
Vila Cushman, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

REMEMBERING 9/11



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Maryhelen Burton, foreground, and her freshman classmates at Silver Bluff High School, listen somberly to the words of Alan Jackson in "Where Were You," a song he wrote in the aftermath of 9/11.

'Where were you?'

Silver Bluff students hear words of Sept. 11

BY ROB NOVIT
novit@aikenstandard.com

More on 9/11

INSIDE - 12, 14A
• No end in sight for America's Middle East war responsibilities
• N.Y. lawmakers Reauthorize 9/11 compensation law
• New York Mayor Bill de Blasio says city will remain a target
• National Park Service gives tour of Flight 93 memorial
• Sept. 11 museum sees influx of new artifacts from attack

They are 14-year-old freshmen and were not yet even toddlers in 2001. Yet they do seem to know more than many adults. Several of them had taken a field trip to New York and visited the September 11 Memorial and Museum. As the 9/11 anniversary approaches, the story of that day continues to evolve for them.

USC Aiken senior Josh Snipes, a history major and Aiken High School graduate, is spending the semester with McNeil as a student intern. His own memories of 9/11 are sketchy at best. Snipes was in fourth grade and didn't really understand the significance and alarming uncertainty around him

was that morning. He was teaching in the same classroom, turning on the television just as the second

Project Jackson plaintiff appeals ruling

BY T.J. LUNDEEN
editorial@aikenstandard.com

NORTH AUGUSTA — After a judge's August ruling in favor of the City of North Augusta regarding the proposed Project Jackson development, plaintiff Steve Donohue is not walking away quietly.

Donohue, a resident of the River Club, a neighborhood in North Augusta that will border the proposed project, formally filed an appeal Sept. 2. Project Jackson is a proposed 457-acre development, possibly consisting of a hotel, stores and a baseball stadium. It will be between The River Club and Hammond's Ferry neighborhoods in North Augusta.

The ruling in favor of the City was handed down by Judge J. Ernest Kimard on Aug. 20.

The original complaint lodged by Donohue stated, among other things, that the amended ordinance the City adopted last November establishing a Tax Increment Financing District, or TIF, to finance a portion of Project Jackson did not comply with state law in that there's no evidence of blight in the area, and there are no findings that property values would remain static or decline without intervention.

Please see **APPEAL**, Page 7A



FILE PHOTO BY MELISSA HANNA
Steve Donohue, right, chats with the first witness, Dr. Tom Benan, out of



HIGH: 90
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Weather, 4B

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S.C. DAD FACES MURDER CHARGES
Father of five confesses to killing his children, dumping their bodies in secluded area in Alabama 5A



The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, September 11, 2014

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IN PORT ROYAL

Veteran selected for free house

By MATT McNAB
mmcnab@islandpacket.com
843-706-8125

U.S. Army Sgt. Lynn "Allan" Holland and his family got the surprise of a lifetime Wednesday in Port Royal — a new, free house.

Looking at the future site of his home in the Shadow Moss development, Holland could muster only one word: "Wow."

The veteran, injured in combat in Afghanistan in 2012, and his family found out at a ceremony in the development Wednesday that they will receive a mortgage-free home in the coming months.

"It's awesome," Holland said. "It's changed our lives."

Holland, his wife, Karen; and son Ryan, 16, had no idea they were getting a home. They traveled from Lexington, believing they were to be interviewed as part of the selection process. Only when they turned the corner at Saluda Way and saw a group at the home site did they realize they had already been picked.

Please see HOUSE on 7A

PORT ROYAL TOWN COUNCIL

Leaders delay vote on docks contract

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

With contract details still being negotiated, a council member absent and the possibility of the sale of the Port of Port Royal property, Port Royal Town Council delayed a vote Wednesday on leasing the town's shrimp docks.

Town manager Van Willis has been negotiating a five-year lease with representatives of the Sea Eagle Market. Council was expected to vote during its meeting Wednesday, but postponed that tally despite the urging of five residents who

ONLINE
For more details from the meeting, click on this story at beaufortgazette.com.

IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Jury indicts Harrell on 9 charges

House speaker accused of misconduct, falsifying campaign disclosure reports

By JOHN MONK
The (Columbia) State

COLUMBIA — After months of trying to shut down an investigation into his use of campaign money, S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted Wednesday on nine charges, including illegally using campaign money for his personal expenses, filing false campaign disclosure reports and misconduct in office.



Harrell

Shortly thereafter, Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and several House members said Harrell should resign

as speaker. It was the first time in memory that a sitting House speaker has been indicted. A Richland County grand jury issued the nine separate, single-count indictments.

as speaker.

Haley would not elaborate on why she thought her fellow Republican should step aside. But the pair have quarreled for years, dating back to her days as a state representative from Lexington when, she said, Harrell stripped her of a choice committee assignment.

Harrell, 58, has been regarded as an especially powerful speaker, con-

trolling House members' committee appointments, and having strong ties to the state's judges and justices, who are elected by the General Assembly.

According to the indictments, the Charleston Republican used more than \$90,000 in campaign contributions to pay the expenses of his

Please see HARRELL on 7A

WAR ON TERRORISM

MISSION AGAINST ISIL: DEGRADE, DESTROY

- Obama orders to expand airstrikes
- 475 more ground troops requested
- Continued humanitarian aid pledged to rebels in Syria and Iraq

By ANITA KUMAR and LESLEY CLARK
McClatchy Washington Bureau

President Barack Obama on Wednesday announced a broader war against the Islamic State, pledging a U.S.-led coalition to destroy the militants "wherever they exist" as he escalated U.S. involvement in an armed conflict he spent years trying to avoid.

He authorized airstrikes inside Syria, though he did not detail his plans in his speech to the nation. He renewed a quest to arm and train Syrian rebels. He escalated the mission of existing U.S. airstrikes inside Iraq, dispatched more troops there, and pledged new aid to allies in the region.

"With a new Iraqi government in place, and following consultations with allies abroad and Congress at home, I can announce that America will lead a broad coalition to roll back this terrorist threat," he said from the White House.

Please see MISSION on 7A



RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

KERRY: U.S. TROOPS MIGHT DEPLOY IF THERE ARE 'VERY DRAMATIC CHANGES'

BAGHDAD — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry raised the possibility Wednesday that U.S. troops might be committed to ground operations in Iraq in extreme circumstances, the first hedging by an administration official on President Barack Obama's pledge that there will be no U.S. boots on the ground to battle the Islamic State. Kerry made the comment during a news



ISLAMIC STATE TERRORISTS TALKED OF ENTERING U.S. THROUGH MEXICO

WASHINGTON — Islamic State extremists have discussed infiltrating the United States through its border with Mexico, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

Francis Taylor, undersecretary for intelligence and analysis at the Department of Homeland Security, told a Senate committee Wednesday that the Sunni militants have been tracked discussing the idea on social-media sites such as Twitter.

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

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SC House Speaker charged with misconduct

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted Wednesday on misdemeanor charges that he misused his office for personal gain and lied to law enforcement about his campaign expenses, according to court documents.

Prosecutor David Pascoe announced that a Richland County grand jury indicted the 58-year-old Charleston Republican on nine charges: two counts of misconduct in office, six counts of using campaign money for personal use and falsely reporting campaign disclosures. Each is punishable by up to one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

One count alleges he reimbursed

himself \$3,875 for flying his family and friends to Florida in March 2009 in his private plane for a high school baseball tournament. His campaign disclosures labeled that trip "legislative travel," court documents allege.

No bond hearing has been set. Harrell, speaker since 2005, has repeatedly said he did nothing illegal and previously characterized the allegations as politically motivated.

"I have never intentionally violated any law," he said in a statement Wednesday.

Court documents accuse Harrell of falsely claiming money was spent on legitimate campaign or legislative purposes and covering it up by changing entries in his pilot logbook, creating false flight schedules and "misinforming" officers.

"It's a very puzzling set of indict-

ments. There's a mismatch between the allegations and the charges," said John Crangle of Common Cause, who worked to bring allegations to prosecutors' attention. "It's sort of like charging Bonnie and Clyde with shoplifting."

Documents allege Harrell paid himself \$294,335 from his campaign

See HARRELL, page 4A

MCCORMICK

4 candidates, 3 seats in election for school board

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

With four candidates vying for three seats, change may soon be in store for the McCormick County School District board of trustees.

Current board members Al Bell, Verneema Chiles and Andrea Mann are running to retain their seats in the Nov. 4 election. Newcomer Dedric Williams will challenge the incumbents for one of the open seats on the board in the at-large election.

Williams is a McCormick native with two young children, both under the age of 2 who will one day attend school in the district. He currently works as a counselor for the South Carolina Department of Corrections. One of his major motivations to run for the board concerns test scores.

"We have some of the absolute best facilities that you could find in a school, and we still have some of the lowest scores," Williams said Wednesday evening.

Williams said that as a former assistant football coach at McCormick High School he saw a great amount of academic potential among students that was not being fully realized.

"Academically, they were not putting forth as much effort as I thought they should," Williams said. "I would see their grades and I would wonder, 'what's really the issue?'"

He suggested he would like to become familiar with issues causing these scores in the district and address them through election to the board.

"My goal for the school board is to get on and find out what those issues are, and I can't do that from the outside," Williams said.

Williams emphasized his

See SCHOOL, page 4A

'FIRST-ROUND PICK'



Bo Harter shakes hands with Greenwood Metropolitan District General Manager George Martin as he accepts the Employee of the Year Award at the annual Awards and Safety Luncheon Wednesday.



Greenwood Metropolitan District employees gather in recognition of their work from Teamwork Class of 2014-2015 at the Awards and Safety Luncheon Wednesday.

Harter named Greenwood employee of the year

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

When Greenwood Metropolitan District General Manager George Martin thinks of Bo Harter, he thinks of a football center.

"An All-American center," Martin said. "He's just a grind-it-out kind of guy, he's here every day. And he directs his team and his co-workers, makes sure they're all in the right spots."

Martin said during the Greenwood Metropolitan District's annual award luncheon on Wednesday that Harter would be a "first-round pick" in any draft of talent for the utility. To that end, Harter won the organization's Heisman Trophy: Harter was named GMD's Employee of the Year.

But instead of football fields, Harter, a 5-year veteran of GMD's collections department, spends most of his time working on and securing manholes.

"It's usually at least one a day, four days a week," Harter said. "So it's around 200 manholes that we're going in."

Harter was joined by Jimmy Pinson, Tony Williamson and Joey Owens in receiving their respective

departments' employee of the year awards.

"I've been to a lot of metropolitan districts across the country," Martin said. "I wouldn't trade any of you for any of them."

Martin said the district did well during the inclement weather of the past winter and also stepped up its development of personnel.

"We've got our guys getting certifications, which means they're being recognized for their education and their training," Martin said.

Nine employees were recognized for achieving higher levels of certification in collective system operations and biological wastewater.

But even as the tangible achievements of the Metro were extolled through the luncheon, Martin pointed to the staff's love of community.

In the wake of a shortage at the Food Bank of Greenwood County, Martin sent out a plea to Metro employees to bring canned goods to the luncheon.

So even as the hundred or so attendees dug into plates prepared by their co-workers, several boxes

See HARTER, page 4A

Arts Center receives funding from Eaton to focus on diversity programming

By ST. CLAIRE DONAGHY

an under-served youth audience.

"Eaton's also will provide a

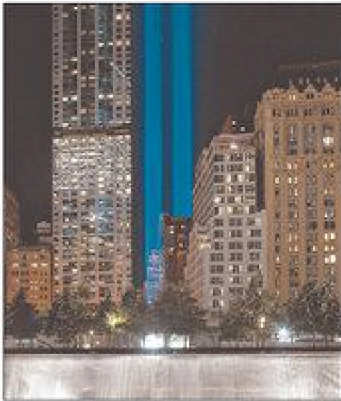
Eaton's appreciation for the Arts Cen-

ter's commitment to outreach, particu-

the Sumter ITEM

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2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES | VOL. 119, NO. 281



When will it end?

13 years after 9/11 attacks,
America braces for more
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This husband chooses his
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Partly sunny and warm today; partly cloudy tonight
HIGH 91, LOW 73

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Funding elimination could mean tax hike

County might see more than \$3.62M revenue shortfall

BY JOE KEPLER
joe@theitem.com

Sumter County Council expressed concern about a developing issue on the state level at Tuesday night's meeting, as it was learned that there is a movement aiming to eliminate local government funding. The situation, brought to council's attention by County Administrator Gary Mixon, could affect future county budgets and even raise taxes in the county as a stop-gap measure.

"It's an issue that's been going on since 2009," Mixon said of previous cuts to funding. "County governments rely heavily on state ap-

propriation, or as we call it, local government funds, to basically supplement our local tax dollars."

Local government funds are tax dollars from cities and counties that are paid to the state government. A portion of those taxes, in theory, is supposed to return to local governments to run state functions within that community. The state has been reducing the amount of money it returns since 2009 and now is looking for support to do away with it altogether.

"We understood during the tough economic times that it had to be done, but now that revenues have increased over in Columbia, instead of bringing it back to the

statutory formula (of 4.5 percent of total funds returned), it has still been reduced," Mixon said.

"What we're not hearing is another plan to fund it through another source," he added. "All we're hearing is that there is some discussion of eliminating the government fund, and that gives us great concern. You're talking about millions of dollars going to the local government, and that's money we can't make up."

The state's General Assembly has put additional pressure on the county with this discussion via the existing Act 368, which limits the

SEE COUNTY, PAGE A5

Get ready for Oktoberfest



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Leo Morse and Drake Hutson hang banners Wednesday for the sponsors for Oktoberfest on Main, which will take place on Sept. 20 in downtown Sumter.

Obama: U.S. will expand airstrikes to 'ultimately destroy' Islamic State

BY JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — In a major reversal, President Obama moved Wednesday night to deepen the U.S. military role in the volatile Middle East, vowing to wage an unrelenting counterterrorism effort using airstrikes to target Islamic State fighters in both Iraq and Syria.

Obama outlined his strategy, which also includes training and arming Syrian rebels, in a high-stakes address to the nation. Obama said the objective is to "degrade and ultimately destroy" the Islamic State group.

"This counterterrorism campaign will be waged through a

steady, relentless effort to take out ISIL wherever they exist using our air power and our support for partner forces on the ground," Obama said, using an alternative name for the group.



OBAMA

Until now, the U.S. launched airstrikes against the group only within the borders of Iraq, whose government invited the American military to take that step. But officials have said in recent days that Islamic State, which also controls territory in Syria, must be viewed as one group, not two separate entities split by a border.

Ahead of Obama's remarks, congressional leaders grappled with

whether to support his request to arm the Syrian opposition, and if so, how to get such a measure through the fractured legislature before the November elections.

Obama's plans amount to a striking shift for a president who has steadfastly sought to wind down American military campaigns in the Middle East and avoid new wars. That stance has been notable in Syria, where Islamic State militants have taken advantage of the instability created by a three-year civil war and now operate freely in areas near and across the Iraqi border.

"I want the American people to understand how this effort will be

SEE OBAMA, PAGE A5



'NO SAFE HAVEN'
As nation reflects on 9/11 attacks, Obama announces military campaign in Middle East. **D1**

PLAYING IT SAFE: Program provides certified athletic trainers at high schools. **B1**
COMING ALONG: Tigers' McCullough embracing new tight end role. **C1**

Power to change

Seneca to deal with new electric company

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — City officials will turn to a new provider of wholesale electricity when a five-year contract with Southern Power expires June 30, 2015.

Seneca City Council

voted this week to negotiate a new contract with Santee Cooper Power, South Carolina's state-owned electric and water utility formerly known as the South Carolina Public Service Authority.

Seneca finance director and treasurer Joel Seavey said Wednesday once a

contract is negotiated it has to come back to council for final approval.

Council chose to negotiate a contract with Santee Cooper during its meeting Tuesday night following a lengthy executive session in which proposals from five companies, including Southern Power, were

reviewed and discussed. Duke Energy, Piedmont Municipal Power Agency and SCE&G also made proposals to the city. Once council returned to open session, mayor pro tem Ronnie O'Kelley made a motion, which was

SEE POWER, PAGE A5

Magistrate unaware of defendant's history as sex offender

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County magistrate Will Derrick said Wednesday morning he "was not aware" a man who was released on a \$50,000 surety bond on sexual assault and kidnapping charges had been on the sexual offender registry for nearly 25 years.

Michael Anthony Gilmore, 48, of 420 Ginger Drive, Westminster, was released Tuesday afternoon. He had been arrested for kidnapping and first-degree criminal sexual conduct in connection with an incident late last Thursday night and early Friday morning near Tokeena Crossroads.

Gilmore was arrested after a woman told sheriff's deputies early Friday morning she had been sexually assaulted at the intersection of S.C. Highway 24 and Crossroads Drive near Tokeena Crossroads. The assault allegedly occurred outdoors.

Oconee County Sheriff's Office public information officer Jimmy Watt said the woman was allegedly held down against her will without freedom of movement, which met the criteria for the



Gilmore



Sherry Darlene Barron appears before Oconee County magistrate Will Derrick for a bond hearing at the Oconee County Detention Center alongside attorney Harry Bodiford. Barron was charged with DUI in connection with an Aug. 31 jet ski crash that left two others seriously injured.

Woman charged with DUI in jet ski crash

THE JOURNAL STAFF

WALHALLA — Authorities have charged a 47-year-old Westminster woman with driving a jet ski under the influence after a crash in which two others were seriously injured on Lake Ke-

owee over the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Sherry Darlene Barron, of 106 Pritchard St., was arrested and booked into the Oconee County Detention Center on Wednesday

SEE CRASH, PAGE A6



Police outlines mark the location of an accident that killed a man who was lying in the road in Seneca early Wednesday morning.

Man hit, killed by newspaper deliveryman

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Officials expect no charges to be filed after a man was struck and killed by a vehicle delivering newspapers as he lay in the road early Wednesday morning.

Robert Hunter, 52, died at the scene of the accident near the intersection of Scotland Drive and West South Second Street, according to Oconee County coroner Karl Addis. Addis said a postmortem exam Wednesday confirmed Hunter died as a result of blunt force trauma to his chest and head and "no medical cause was found to have contributed" to his death. The death has been ruled accidental.

The incident occurred around 3:08 a.m.

Joshua Guy Brock, 25, of Westminster, was delivering newspapers for The Journal on South Poplar Street when he realized he struck something in the roadway, according to an incident report filed by the Seneca Police Department. Brock said he thought he had hit an animal but wasn't sure, so he turned around and found Hunter in the road. He then called 911. The report stated the officer who responded "determined that the victim was illegally in the roadway, causing the subject to strike him."

There were no wit-

SEE KILLED, PAGE A5

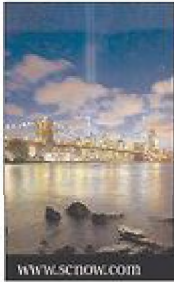
West Union police chief submits resignation

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

nation, which will become effective Oct. 1. Eppees will leave

on to in other areas, so that's what I'm doing," Eppees said Wednesday. "It's a nice spir-

kids, so I'm going to miss that," she said. Eppees and Austin Watson



WHERE ARE WE TODAY? Justin Johnson reflects on America years after 9/11 attacks. **Page 1B**

Morning News

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny, warm and humid. High 92, low 70.

DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

South Carolina

House speaker charged with misconduct

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted Wednesday on misdemeanor charges that he misused his office for personal gain and lied to law enforcement about his campaign expenses, according to court documents. Prosecutor David Pascoe announced that a Richland County

grand jury indicted the 58-year-old Charleston Republican on nine charges: two counts of misconduct in office, six counts of using campaign money for personal use and falsely reporting campaign disclosures. Each is punishable by up to one year in



Harrell

prison and a \$5,000 fine.

One count alleges he reimbursed himself \$3,875 for flying his family and friends to Florida in March 2009 in his private plane for a high school baseball tournament. His campaign disclosures labeled that trip "legislative travel," court documents allege.

No bond hearing has been set. Harrell, speaker since 2005, has

repeatedly said he did nothing illegal and previously characterized the allegations as politically motivated.

"I have never intentionally violated any law," he said in a statement Wednesday.

Court documents accuse Harrell of falsely claiming money was spent on legitimate campaign or legislative purposes and covering it up by changing

entries in his pilot logbook, creating false flight schedules and "misinforming" officers.

"It's a very puzzling set of indictments. There's a mismatch between the allegations and the charges," said John Crangle of Common Cause, who worked to bring allegations to prosecutors' attention. "It's sort of like

See **HARRELL**, Page 3A

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY HUEY



The Rev. Matthew Brown and Darla Moore unveil a statue Wednesday evening of Lake City icon Huey Cooper, who for decades offered people a chance to pet a rabbit's foot for a nickel.



Maurice Charles rubs the lucky rabbit's foot that Huey Cooper once again offers Lake City citizens and visitors.

PHOTOS BY DONNA TRACY
/ MORNING NEWS

Lake City residents, city officials and visitors gathered Wednesday at the corner of Main and Acline streets to witness the unveiling of a statue that for many brought back childhood memories. The statue, created by Florence's resident sculptor Alex Palkovich, is a bronze, larger than life portrait of Huey Cooper based on photographs of the man sitting in one of his favorite spots. Cooper became a Lake City icon with his lucky rabbit's foot and walking cane, his requests for nickels and his whistling invitations. A familiar face in Lake City for decades, several generations of those growing up in Lake City have a story or two to share about Cooper. Most can recall giving him nickels to rub his lucky rabbit's foot — something today's visitors can now continue. His statue proudly offers a rabbit's foot for luck just as Cooper once did and a small coin slot in his pants pocket allows nickels to be deposited. Cooper passed away in 1978 at the age of 105.

Neighbor IDs Michael Floyd as shooter

Defense works to poke holes in his testimony

BY TRACI BRIDGES

Morning News
tbridges@forenews.com

FLORENCE — A man who lived next door to Michael and Amanda Floyd testified Wednesday that he witnessed Michael Floyd shoot his wife, but the defense maintains the story is full of inconsistencies and therefore lacks credibility.

Michael Floyd, 33, is charged with attempted murder in a shooting incident last year that left his then-wife, Amanda Floyd, with permanent injuries.

Dewey Kirby III was a neighbor of the Floyds. He lived with his parents about 100 yards away from the couple's Megan Road residence. He said he was on the phone with a girlfriend in Chicago and watching TV about 11:35 p.m. on May 1, 2013, when he heard a gunshot.

"It sounded like it was in my front yard," Kirby testified. "I jumped up and went outside and started looking around. There was nobody around except a figure in Michael and Amanda Floyd's yard. I seen that the floodlights was on and I seen Michael Floyd with a gun in his hand. He shot toward the woods, then shot twice towards the house. I heard Amanda scream, 'Michael!' I heard her scream his name. Then I saw him go inside and shut the door. I run back inside and told my mother, 'I think Michael Floyd just shot his wife.'"

Although it was dark, Kirby testified Wednesday that the Floyds' back deck was illuminated by flood lights and a light that shone outside while the back door was open so he could clearly see Michael Floyd standing on the deck with the gun.

But on cross-examination, defense attorney Rose Mary Parham presented previous written statements Kirby made to investigators that contradict the account he gave on the witness stand.

In a previous statement, contrary to his testimony, Parham said Kirby



Floyd

Dilapidated historic building to be demolished downtown

BY GAVIN JACKSON

Morning News
gjackson@forenews.com

FLORENCE — Another building with historical significance near the center of historic

inherited the property from his father 10 years ago and said despite evaluations over the years by an architect, builders and a real estate agent, no viable opportunity for the property has surfaced.

the building on the overgrown lot across from the railroad tracks, less than a block away from the downtown historic district. He noted that he will attempt to save the lumber during the demolition.

property was foreclosed upon in May and sold this summer. Property records show it is now owned by Red Bone Alley Foods LLC, which is registered to Florence restaurateur Dale Barth.



Odd

Thirteen years ago, on September 11, 2001, America's single-worst day of terrorism, nearly 3,000 people were killed as al-Qaida members hijacked four passenger jetliners, sending two of the planes smashing into New York's World Trade Center towers, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania.

EDITORIAL, EXPANDED COVERAGE, B4; SPECIAL POSTER INSIDE

WE WILL NOT FORGET



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | THETANDD.COM | 5 SECTIONS, 26 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 254

Descent into darkness

'Loving' father now tied to deaths of 5 'beautiful' children

By JAY REEVES
and JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

PINEAPPLE, Ala. — Their little bodies shrouded in plastic bags, the five children of Timothy Ray Jones Jr. had been dead for days by the time he led investigators to the spot where they had been dumped among dead trees and scrub brush.

The children's journey to that isolated hilltop in central Alabama covered hundreds of miles and crisscrossed several Southeastern states as Jones drove his Cadillac Escalade around for days, using bleach to try to mask the smell of the decomposing bodies, authorities said Wednesday.

Jones was arrested Saturday at a DUI checkpoint in Mississippi, about 500 miles from his hometown of Lexington, South Carolina. An officer said he "smelled the stench of death" along with chemicals used to make methamphetamine and synthetic marijuana. Jones was acting strangely and appeared "somewhat disoriented," said Lewis McCarty, the acting sheriff in Lexington.

Court documents show the children's brief lives were troubled, marred for years by discord between their parents. The divorce between Jones and his wife, Amber, finalized 11 months ago, included multiple allegations of adultery against the woman and resulted in the children bouncing back and forth between their home in South Carolina and northeastern Mississippi, where Jones' family lives.

A therapist who saw the man more than two years ago described him as "highly intelligent" and responsible, yet emotionally devastated and angry over his wife's alleged infidelity, court records show. Still, authorities said they don't know why the



Photos of the children of Timothy Ray Jones Jr. were displayed during a news conference at the Lexington County Sheriff's Dept. Training Center in Lexington on Wednesday.



In this image taken from video on Tuesday, Smith County, Mississippi, sheriff's deputies escort Timothy Ray Jones Jr. from jail in Raleigh, Mississippi.

sies were scheduled to begin Thursday.

Jones, 32, confessed to killing his children, ages 1 to 8, and dumping their bodies in the secluded clearing, authorities said. The computer engineer who had a degree from Mississippi State University was working for Intel

said. At the time of his divorce, he was making about \$71,000 a year.

The sheriff said Jones apparently acted alone and will be charged with five counts of murder. Authorities have seized his computer.

Jones' father made a brief statement, but directed ques-

Young's office in South Carolina refused to confirm that it is representing Jones and declined to comment.

Authorities believe the children were killed at the same time, likely soon after they were last seen alive in late August. Jones had moved with the children to a neighborhood of mobile homes in Lexington after the October 2013 divorce and the children had slowly started disappearing from view, said neighbor Dorothy Wood.

"I didn't even hear them playing outside any more. I thought they had moved," Wood said.

Jones' stepmother, Julie Jones of Amory, Mississippi, called the children "beautiful."

"They were wonderful. They were happy," Jones said as she cried.

Divorce records listed the five children as Merah, 8;

Speaker Harrell charged with misconduct

By SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell was indicted Wednesday on misdemeanor charges that he misused his office for personal gain and lied to law enforcement about his campaign expenses, according to court documents.

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No bond hearing has been set. Harrell, speaker since 2005, has repeatedly said he did nothing illegal and previously characterized the allegations as politically motivated.

"I have never intentionally violated any law," he said in a statement Wednesday.

See SPEAKER, A5



AP/RICHARD SHIRO
S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell is shown on June 23 watching proceedings in the South Carolina Supreme Court.

Lawmakers feel no joy at charges

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

After hearing Wednesday that a grand jury indicted House Speaker Bobby Harrell, Rep. Jerry Gowan said "I don't take any joy in hearing sad news like that."

The Orangeburg Democrat said, "Bobby is a family man. He's an individual who's very committed to

SCSU: Situation improving

By DALE UNDER-ALTMAN
T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina State University failed to reach its projected fall enrollment of 3,670 by a total of 368 students, but affairs at the university are looking up, according to administrators.

to student enrollment, the failure to reach the anticipated enrollment could have significantly reduced the institution's income.

But the number of out-of-state students was twice the number projected by the budget, according to Vice President of Fiscal Affairs

Brian Symmes

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