

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
To:  
Date: 7/10/2014 10:40:14 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages – Thursday, July 10, 2014

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## **SC Front Pages – Thursday, July 10, 2014**



## BUSINESS, 13A TASTE OF VICTORY



## METRO, 3A Man shot by police charged

# The Greenville News

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THURSDAY,  
JULY 10, 2014  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY ESCORT CHARGED IN GOOGLE EXECUTIVE'S DEATH PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

## Court backs Wilson probe of Harrell

But ruling says judge can stop grand jury

By Tim Smith  
Staff writer

COLUMBIA — South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson has the authority to investigate House Speaker Bobby Harrell over ethics violations, according to the state Supreme Court.

But Circuit Judge Casey Manning, who ordered Wilson to halt the state grand jury

probe into Harrell, also has the authority to stop the grand jury, the justices said in a unanimous decision on Wednesday.

"We reiterate that while its rationale was misplaced, the court acted well within its statutory authority in assessing the jurisdiction of the state grand jury beyond the impanelment stage," the justices stated in their 13-page opinion.

Manning ruled on May 12



Harrell



Wilson

that the state grand jury lacked jurisdiction to investigate the Harrell case because the complaint was an ethics matter and civil in nature. He

also ruled that Wilson lacked jurisdiction absent a referral from the House Ethics Committee and that ethics investigations of lawmakers and legislative staff are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legislature.

Manning, who initially authorized the state grand jury probe into Harrell, ordered the grand jury discharged and for Wilson to stop his investigation.

Wilson has argued that the

case is criminal in nature and he has jurisdiction to investigate it.

Harrell issued a statement Wednesday saying the justices did not rule against the idea of another prosecutor taking over the case.

"We are disappointed with the court's ruling but in no way did the court take exception to our original contention that another prosecutor should

See HARRELL, Page 4A

## Teens' killer denied parole

Victims' families doubt 'accident' story

By Tim Smith  
Staff writer  
tsmith@greenvillenews.com

COLUMBIA — Charles Williams says that he never intended to hurt three Greenville teen girls he was convicted of killing in 1976.

Williams, now 64, told the state's parole board Wednesday that he met the girls at a Greenville club one summer night in 1975 and the group

popped pills before climbing into his car to head to another nightspot.

That's when another passenger in the car noticed the three seemed to be passed out, he said. So he

took them out of the car at an outdoors spot the group liked to party at and left them, he said, hoping they would later wake up.

"This doesn't rectify anything or make it any better," he told parole board members from his Columbia prison in a video link. "But nobody was out to harm anybody. We was all just out partying."

In April 1976, jurors found Williams, also known as Goldie McCrary, guilty of three murders. He was sentenced to die.

This was four years after the U.S. Supreme Court had abolished the death penalty because the way in which sentences were handed out was arbitrary and therefore cruel

See PAROLE, Page 4A

## PLAN TO TAKE NUKE WASTE QUESTIONED



Watchdog group says German shipment may not be legal

By Eric Connor  
Staff writer  
econnor@greenvillenews.com

Plans to ship German nuclear waste to South Carolina might not be legal, as government officials try to depict the highly radioactive material as the product of research and not fuel used for profit, nuclear watchdogs say.

The waste — nearly a ton of highly enriched uranium the government says originated in the United States —

would be shipped across the Atlantic from Germany to the port of Charleston, then transported by train to the Savannah River Site, according to plans released by the Department of Energy.

The proposal — three years in the making and open for public comment until later this month, with a decision due sometime next year — would fulfill an obligation the United States has through its treaties to reduce the proliferation of material that could be used as weapons, the DOE says.

The department — responsible for operation of the facility in Aiken that

once was used to produce nuclear weapons during the Cold War — believes that considering acceptance of the waste is appropriate "because, among other reasons, it was used for early research and development purposes," SRS spokesman Jim Giusti said.

"If a decision is made to accept the fuel, DOE's acceptance of the fuel will be in accordance with all applicable legal requirements," Giusti said.

However, longtime nuclear watchdog Tom Clements, leader of an envi-

See NUCLEAR, Page 4A







# Clemson's biggest games

Florida State, USC two of the top five on Dabo's 2014 schedule. **C1**

## The State

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

### HOUSE SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

# Court: Harrell probe can go on

Grand jury investigation to continue, but attorney general's role remains a question

By JAMIE SELF  
jself@thestate.com

South Carolina's Supreme Court on Wednesday dealt a blow to S.C. House Speaker Bobby

Harrell, granting Attorney General Alan Wilson's request to allow a State Grand Jury probe of Harrell to continue.

Still up in the air is whether Wilson can con-

tinue leading the State Grand Jury proceedings. In their unanimous ruling, the justices instructed a lower court to decide whether the attorney general should be disqualified

from the case, as Charleston Republican Harrell has asked.

In a statement, Harrell said he was "disappointed with the court's ruling," but noted the justices did

not reject his argument that Wilson should be replaced.

"It was (Circuit Court) Judge (Casey) Manning,

SEE HARRELL PAGE A4



Harrell

Wilson

## 'YOU GOT THE MUSIC IN YOUR HEAD'

*'Enthusiastic souls' sing from the heart at Allen University's first Hall Johnson summer music camp*



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GERRY WILKINSON/SARLINCORP/STRIKEONE.COM

Roland Carter leads a group of high school students from all over South Carolina on Wednesday during Allen's summer music camp.

# THE SPIRITUAL COMES ALIVE

### IF YOU GO

The students of Allen University's Hall Johnson Summer Camp will perform a free finale concert Friday under the direction of festival conductor Roland Carter.



By CAROLYN CLICK  
cclick@thestate.com

The teenagers at Allen University's Hall Johnson summer music camp began their morning with a practice hum that gained depth and precision as renowned guest conductor Roland Carter urged them onward.

### CORRUPTION TRIAL

## 6 witnesses against Pinson face sentencing

Length of terms they get could impact Pinson's eventual sentence

By JOHN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

Six men who pleaded guilty in the just-completed federal corruption trial of former S.C. State University board chairman Jonathan Pinson are expected to be sentenced in coming months.

No date has been set, according to federal records of those cases.

Five of the six — including three top former S.C. State University officials — testified during the nearly three-week trial, which concluded July 3. Their testimony, in large part, led to the jury finding Pinson guilty of 29 of 45 charges, including money laundering, bribery and wire fraud.

The other co-conspirator, Lance Wright, a former S.C. State board member, was ready to testify but prosecutors decided not to use him in their case, in which they put up some 20 other witnesses. Wright provided the original tip to federal law officials that allowed them to seek permission from a judge to put a court-authorized secret wiretap on Pinson's phone.

Wright's stippled federal officers to secretly record more than 1,000 Pinson conversations in the spring and fall of 2011. Information on those taps led to the guilty pleas of the other five co-conspirators.

SEE PINSON PAGE A6

### Haleys' earnings climb



S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband, Michael, made more money in 2013 than in 2012 because of an increase in revenue from real estate investments. **METRO**



# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

THURSDAY, July 10, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 191 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

## MOX under fire

BY DERREK ASBERRY  
daserberry@aikenstandard.com

The White House threatened on Wednesday to veto a United States House bill partly because it includes \$345 million in funding for construction of the Savannah River Site's MOX facility — \$149 million more than President Barack Obama's fiscal year 2015 budget request.

"The (Obama) Administration strongly objects to language that would require the Secretary of En-

### The White House threatens to veto bill involving the project

ergy to continue construction of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility," officials wrote in a statement dated July 9.

The Office on Management and Budget released the statement and

objected to MOX funding, and several other funding scopes, outlined in the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

Language in the act states funding for the MOX program should

be designated for construction only while the administration proposed funding to put the program in a cold stand-by.

"The Administration plans to move the facility into cold stand-by in

FY-2015 as it continues to explore the potential for more cost effective alternatives while maintaining the U.S. Government's commitment to disposing of unneeded plutonium," officials wrote.

While the Obama administration is pushing for a cold stand-by, committees in both the House and Senate have included language in recent bills to fund MOX through fiscal year 2015.

Please see MOX, Page 5A

### INSIDE TODAY



Peach Jam to return to North Augusta  
Sports, 1B



Argentina advances to final World Cup match  
Sports, 1B



Heart Board show gives nod to prior shows  
Living on the Go, 1C

### AREA DEATHS

Allene Bennett Craig, Ridge Spring  
George Grieve Jr., North Augusta  
James Gilbert, Aiken  
Samuel A. Fulmer, Dearing  
Sandra Smith, Aiken  
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER



## 'You're driving the bus'

### Freshman orientation gives insight to college

BY ROB NOVIT  
novit@aikenstandard.com

As they waited for an orientation program to begin on Wednesday, scores of USC Aiken freshmen appeared to hold on to a classic "deer-in-headlights" expression. Courtney Wideman, however, wasn't one of them.

"I'm just a people person and love meeting them," Wideman said, a Saluda High School graduate.

Joined by their parents, about 200 first-year students attended sessions during the first of two days. The orientation will end today. Two more programs are scheduled before the fall semester to introduce another 400 freshmen to the campus.

Brooke Cantrell recalls the same anxiety that many of the new students are experiencing; one year ago, she was in the audience herself after graduating from Aiken High School.

Now a rising sophomore, she and about 20 other upperclassmen are serving as Pacesetters, providing the freshmen with cheerful comments, and also useful information about the university. Later, they served as tour guides and described their classes and available activities.

Please see USCA, Page 5A



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

For an icebreaker at USC Aiken's freshman orientation, students batted around a beachball, and Victoria Caldwell, front row, won a prize.



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Not shy at all, these new USCA freshmen are ready for orientation on Wednesday. Pictured, from left, are Michaela Howard, Courtney Wideman, Ashley Rita and Ana Carbajal.



STAFF PHOTO BY ROB NOVIT

Each year, Dr. Michael Ritchie, a USC Aiken professor, tells incoming freshmen with simultaneous humor and seriousness, that for the first time, they are in charge of their lives.

## Suspicious package held ATM repair part







# The Beaufort Gazette

THURSDAY, July 10, 2014

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S.C. SUPREME COURT RULING

## Attorney general can investigate Harrell

By JEREMY BORDEN and SCHUYLER KROPP  
[postandcourier.com](mailto:postandcourier.com)

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's attorney general is free to investigate House Speaker Bobby Harrell, the S.C. Supreme Court ruled unanimously on Wednesday, overturning a lower court's decision and turning the fight into a seesaw battle that is expected to continue.

In a 13-page ruling, the justices said Attorney General Alan Wilson is fully



Harrell

The Charleston Republican has faced allegations that he used campaign funds for personal use and his position for personal benefit. He has not been charged with any crimes.

empowered to investigate wrongdoing wherever it may occur and that his powers are not blunted because the investigation involves a lawmaker's ethical conduct.

The state's top prosecutor possesses "wide latitude in selecting what cases to prosecute and what cases to plea bargain," they wrote as they recognized that the attorney general's authority to prosecute "derives from our state constitution and thus cannot be impaired by legislation."

Harrell, a Charleston Republican, has faced allegations that he used campaign funds for personal use and his position for personal benefit. He has not been charged with any crimes.

But Harrell and his attorneys had argued that any probe into such matters belonged with the House Ethics Committee, where such matters are usually settled. The grand jury probe should be halted, they have said, until that House panel can vet the allegations.

Wilson contends the law gives him the right to investigate Harrell and to convene the state grand jury as part of the investigation.

A May ruling by Circuit Judge Casey Manning was flawed, the justices wrote,

because he failed to consider the law enforcement role of the attorney general's office.

They compared the House Ethics Committee's authority to a professional body that oversees its members.

"For example, a doctor is subject to oversight by the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners (the Board) and may have his or her medical license rescinded in disciplinary proceedings,

Please see HARRELL on 7A

PORT ROYAL:  
'COOL. COASTAL.  
FAR FROM ORDINARY.'

## Town gets logo, tagline

By ERIN MOODY  
[emmoody@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:emmoody@beaufortgazette.com)  
843-706-8184

Port Royal is officially "Cool, Coastal, Far from Ordinary."

Town Council gave unanimous approval Wednesday night to that motto and an anchor logo, both of which will be used in a branding campaign and in marketing materials.

"We now have a logo and tagline," Mayor Sam Murray said. "Start using them."

Bruce Murdy, president of Charleston advertising agency Rawle Murdy Associates, gave council a final presentation before the vote. It included a list of steps for marketing that can be taken this year and next.

Please see LOGO on 7A



## COOLING OFF



DELAHYA EARLEY • Staff photo

Kye Van Frank, 5, of Beaufort plays underneath a mushroom-shaped waterfall Wednesday at the pool at the Charles Lind Brown Activity Center in Beaufort.

GATOR WRANGLER LOSES STATE CONTRACT

## Hundreds sign petition in support of Maffo

By MATT McNAB  
[mmcnab@islandpacket.com](mailto:mmcnab@islandpacket.com)  
843-706-8125

A petition aimed at reinstating a Hilton Head Island alligator wrangler's contract with the state has the support of hundreds of people, including the island's animal shelter.

Joe Maffo's company, Critter Management, had its contract to remove alligators terminated by the S.C. De-



**PRESS PLAY**  
For video, go to <http://bit.ly/1gfc6W>.

Island Humane Association announced its support for Maffo and the petition, which is on the Care2.com website at <http://bit.ly/1toSikf>. Williams' name was listed as the petition's author, but contact infor-



CRISIS ON THE BORDER

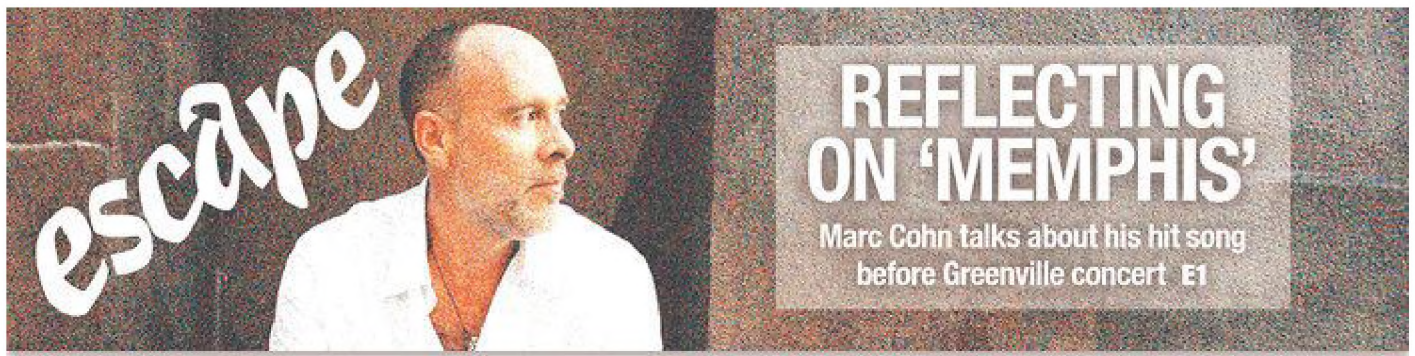
## Obama: 'This is a problem'

By ERICA WERNER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of children streaming from chaotic Central American nations to the U.S. border have overwhelmed the government's ability to respond, senior administration officials said Wednesday as President Barack Obama urged







## REFLECTING ON 'MEMPHIS'

Marc Cohn talks about his hit song before Greenville concert E1



A shower or t-storm  
High 87  
Low 68

# Herald-Journal

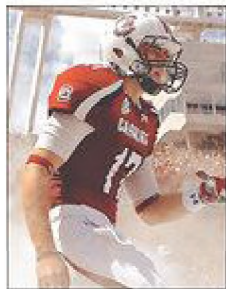
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IN A HURRY

5 Things to read today



### Summer school

Former Boiling Springs standout Dylan Thompson, who is going into the season as the starting quarterback at South Carolina, will have a chance to mingle with the best as he is one of 30-plus college quarterbacks invited to the Manning Passing Academy in Thibodaux, La. **PAGE B1**

### Targets hit

With rockets raining deep inside Israel, that nation's military pummeled Palestinian targets Wednesday across the Gaza Strip and threatened a broad ground offensive, while the first diplomatic efforts to end two days of fighting began. **PAGE A5**

### Welcome back

Cleveland Academy of Leadership was busier than usual on Wednesday afternoon as students and parents attended the school's welcome back celebration. **PAGE C1**

### Tax returns

Gov. Nikki Haley and her husband reported earning more than \$282,000 in her third year as the state's CEO and donating \$126,000 to charity, according to 2013 tax returns. **PAGE C3**

### Expansion

Belk Inc. is expanding its Union County e-commerce distribution and fulfillment center operations for the second time since opening in June 2012, the governor's office announced Wednesday. **PAGE C4**

### DUNCAN FIRE SERVICE REFERENDUM

## WHO SHOULD PAY?

Homeowners in fire district, town could face double taxation



Chief Barry Frost of the Duncan Fire Department talks about equipment, living conditions and training for firefighters serving with the department.

ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

By FELICIA KITZMILLER  
felicia.kitzmiller@shj.com

A weave of overlapping municipal and fire district lines is creating confusion about how to collect money from taxpayers in the Duncan area.

During the primary election, a nonbinding referendum passed 355 votes to 184 votes, with voters approving a general obligation bond, which could raise taxes up to 9 mills. Fire Chief Barry Frost said the money would be used to expand the Wellford Fire Station and reinforce fire department staffing.

At issue is whether voters in the town of Duncan should have been allowed to vote on the referendum, and whether they are included in the Duncan Fire Service Area — and thus have to pay taxes to fund the bond.

County records show there are about 1,500 properties in the town of Duncan and also in the Duncan Fire Service Area, meaning the owners could be paying twice for fire protection.

During a Duncan Town Council meeting on June 30, a town resident questioned why he had to pay to improve the Wellford Fire Station, and Frost said town residents would not be paying the increased

tax rate because they are excluded from the Duncan Fire Service Area.

The Duncan Fire Service Area was created in 1986, according to a Spartanburg County Council resolution provided by bond attorney Brad Love, who consulted on the recent referendum. The fire service area was modified several times, but the resolutions repeatedly state it excludes properties within the town limits of Duncan.

Frost said fire service for properties within the town is paid for by municipal taxes. Fire service taxes levied by the county on areas outside the city are used to augment the department and allow it to provide fire service beyond town limits.

However, the town resident said the referendum was on his ballot.

"If I'm not going to have to pay for it, why did I vote on it?" the man said.

Henry Laye, director of voter registration and elections for Spartanburg County, said the fire service area encompasses the town of Duncan. County GIS data also shows the town being in the fire service area.

"From our perspective, all vot-



"The city has a millage that includes fire protection. County council can't put a tax on the city of Duncan without town council's consent."

CHIEF BARRY FROST,  
Duncan Fire Department

## State AG gets OK in Harrell ethics case

High court: Wilson allowed to investigate

By MEG KINNARD  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's top prosecutor has the authority to investigate House Speaker Bobby Harrell, the state's highest court ruled Wednesday, saying Attorney General Alan Wilson properly empaneled a state grand jury to consider allegations the powerful Charleston Republican abused his power for personal benefit.

The ruling overturned a lower court's decision earlier this year to halt the prosecutor's investigation. Wilson had been appealing a decision by Circuit Judge Casey Manning, who said Wilson hadn't shown any criminal evidence against Harrell and also ruled that legislative ethics panels — which are only empowered to investigate civil allegations — must first deal with allegations against state lawmakers before prosecutors can be involved.



Harrell

The court unanimously disagreed with Manning, saying that Wilson's prosecutorial power operates separately from the legislative ethics process.

"The House Ethics Committee's concurrent civil regulatory authority does not affect the attorney general's authority to initiate a criminal investigation in any way, whether or not there is a referral, or even a pending House investigation," the court wrote.

During arguments last month, Harrell's attorneys said Manning was right to halt the probe. In defense of their case, prosecutors said the fact that Wilson had asked state police to investigate the speaker, coupled with his subsequent decision to present those findings to a state grand jury, indicate the presence of more than just civil ethics allegations against Harrell.

Ashley Landess of the South

◆ SEE HARRELL PAGE A8

◆ SEE DUNCAN PAGE A8







Post 20 Braves advance against Lancaster, **1B**

# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS,

16 PAGES

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## Childs gets de la Howe post

### Board makes official appointment as school's COO

By JAMIE SELF  
jselt@thestate.com

COLUMBIA — The John de la Howe School for at-risk youth has a new chief operating officer.

The State Board of Education

approved the appointment Wednesday of Meka Childs to the position, created by the state Legislature, to help the McCormick public school make improvements. The call for reforms came after a S.C. inspector general's report recommended better

management and lower costs.

State Superintendent of Education Mick Zais appointed Childs to the post, subject to the state education boards approval. The board gave that approval Wednesday.

Childs was a deputy superin-

tendent under Zais, making about \$116,000 a year, until she stepped down to run for state schools chief.

Despite Zais' endorsement, Childs lost her bid to succeed her former boss in June's Republican primary, finishing sixth in a field of eight GOP

candidates.

Childs will be paid \$8,000 a month for about four months, a state Education Department spokesman said.

Childs, who attended Wednesday's state Board of Education meeting, told The State she is eager to "hit the ground running" in assisting the John de la Howe School, which she called "a wonderful asset of our state."

■ GRENDL

## Sewer upgrades starting in August

By FRANK BUMB  
fbumb@indexjournal.com

Almost \$1 million will flow into the Grendel Mill Village in Greenwood this summer. The upgrades, scheduled to begin by the end of August, will replace and relocate 4,600 feet of sewer lines under Baldwin, Jordan, Klugh and Pelzer streets.

Greenwood Metro General Manager George Martin said the upgrades are sorely needed in the Grendel Mill Village.

"Those lines are all 70, 80 years old," he said. "They're clay and so they have a lot of joints where it's very easy for roots to get in and cause blockages."

The Greenwood Metro Board of Commissioners voted 6-0 to accept the lowest of three bids submitted for the project. Moorhead Construction Inc. of Belton submitted a low bid of \$966,925. Other bids came from Chandler Construction for \$1,194,296 and Dillard Excavating for \$1,560,615.

"The best part about this is that we received a \$500,000 (Community Block Development Grant)," Martin said. "So we're getting almost \$1 million in work for half that."

Tony Williamson, compliance director for Greenwood Metro, said the grant process was competitive, but the funds secured will help keep the costs down for rate payers.

Other upgrades to the lines will include removing them from beneath private property and putting all of them beneath the streets.

"That'll help us maintain the lines without having to go under people's houses and on



KATE HRUBY | INDEX-JOURNAL

SC Department of Transportation personnel inspect a fallen tree, covering power lines at the junction of Route 178 and Route 246 in Hodges.

## Nature's FURY



MADJO JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL

The top portion of Subway's roof, located on Cothran Bridge, now lays in Lake Greenwood after being ripped off Wednesday during a thunderstorm.

## Storms ravage Greenwood County

By KATE HRUBY  
khruby@indexjournal.com

Thunderstorms ravaged Greenwood County on Tuesday afternoon, causing damage in the county's outlying areas.

One of the most significant instances of damage involved the Subway off Highway 72 on Lake Greenwood, at the end of Cothran Bridge, where a piece of the roof had been torn off and blown into the lake.

Greg Lindley, director of the Laurens County Fire Service, said severe thunderstorms came across the lake with straight-line winds hitting the Sonoco gas station and Subway. Lindley said the storm pulled off about one quarter of the restaurant's

metal roof.

Structural debris, including insulation, was scattered across the parking lot and in the lake.

Lindley said his office was called

See STORMS, page 4A

See SEWER, page 2A

Greenwood artist Colleen Tebo stands in front of her barbecue signs in Greenwood.



## Greenwood's Tebo turns barbecue into art

By JOSEPH SITARZ  
jsitarz@indexjournal.com

Festival schedule

on Main for July to tie into ... We traveled and camped, the South Carolina Festival of ... I looked at all the signs. You





**MILITARY:** These men have the power to kill millions, start nuclear war **A4**

# the Sumter ITEM

## Police sniff out snack truck

Missing sodas, chips found in Rimini **A2**

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## Grenades found at Goodwill — again

Donated inert munitions were 'gift' to Shaw airman

BY ROB COTTINGHAM  
rcottingham@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1225

They might not have been lethal, but they definitely gave the employees a jolt.

Workers at Goodwill on Broad Street were on pins and needles after an employee

found a box of flashbang grenades among the donations on Wednesday.

According to one employee, a Shaw Air Force Base airman incidentally included the box in her donation which had been picked up from Palmetto Pointe apartments. The devices were found later once em-

ployees began sorting through donations.

"A co-worker was going through the donations and found them," the employee said. "She then brought them into the office and asked what they were. I immediately

SEE GRENADES, PAGE A8



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Personnel from Shaw Air Force Base examine an inert flashbang grenade in the parking lot of Goodwill on Broad Street in Sumter on Wednesday. A box of the devices was reportedly donated accidentally by an airman when Goodwill employees picked up donations from Palmetto Pointe apartments.

## Gadget takes CSI: Sumter to 'new level'

SLED donates microscope to sheriff's office investigators

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT  
bmarchant@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1272

If all goes according to plan, Sumter County Sheriff's Office will soon keep a bigger eye on crime.

The sheriff's chemist's office, which handles much of the forensic evidence the department collects, is slated to receive a powerful new microscope that would give Sumter County one of the more advanced local crime labs in the state.

Chemist Joseph Powell was recently contacted about taking on a scanning electron microscope, or SEM, currently used by agents at the State Law Enforcement Division.

SLED's lease with the manufacturer is up, so the state agency is getting rid of the machine. But because the machine is still operable, the company offered it to Powell, a former SLED chemist, on a "zero-dollar lease" for the rest of its usable life.

The new microscope will be a boon to local investigators. Sumter County would be the only law enforcement agency besides SLED to have an SEM.

"You see this kind of stuff on 'CSI' and all that," said Sheriff Anthony Dennis. "This will bring us to that whole new level."

The electron microscope can blow up an image to 100,000 times its true size, giving officers a chance to closely examine evidence without having to send it to an outside lab.

The microscope would primarily be used to examine evidence collected by sheriff's deputies for gunshot residue.

"We wouldn't normally handle a suicide, but if there's a question about whether it was a homicide, you can show if there was gunshot residue on the hands," Powell said. "But it can be used for any kind of solid

### HIGHER EDUCATION

## She's back in school at 73



RAYTEVIA EVANS / THE SUMTER ITEM

Betty Brown, 73, works with tutor Sharome Henry in the Student Learning Center at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter recently. After raising six children and retiring twice, Brown has decided to finish school and receive an associate degree in criminal justice. Brown said after earning that degree, she hopes to re-enroll to study for a degree in religion.

## Local grandmother fights for dream she has to earn degree

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS  
revans@theitem.com  
(803) 774-1214

Sumter resident Betty Brown is not your typical college student. She isn't an 18-year-old fresh out of high school with the world as her playground. She isn't inexperienced or unaware of the obstacles in life. In fact, she has

*I've had my ups and downs, but through it all, I'm still able to try to make accomplishments. I am proud of that, and it's really a blessing.*

**BETTY BROWN**

Criminal justice student







**LEADING THE PACK**  
Anthony the star of Clemson linebacking corps. **C1**

**FIT AT 50:** Local pastor using his health story to help others. **B1**

**IMMIGRATION:** Obama urges Congress to approve emergency spending. **D1**

## Better late than never

Seneca working to overhaul 1999 comprehensive plan

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — After operating on a comprehensive plan that was put together in 1999, Seneca's chief planner expects to have an updated future blueprint approved by city council before the end of the year.

Planning director Ed Halbig said this week that the revamped comprehensive plan, which would help direct city

policy and guide decision making through 2022, is almost completed.

Halbig said the document needs bits of data filled in before it goes to the seven member planning commission for its review, comments or recommendations.

"It will have another hearing for the public to consider any issue they think may have changed, but it's all written," Halbig said of the updated comprehensive plan.

Halbig said there is no timetable on paper other than he expects the planning commission to recommend the revamped comprehensive plan in its existing form or with alterations to city council before the end of the year.

Halbig was not around when Seneca completed the comprehensive plan still acting as the city's official planning guidepost since April 13, 1999. Only mayor Dan Alexander and mayor pro tem Ronnie O'Kelley remain from the city council that approved the plan in 1999.

In its summary findings, the

SEE PLAN, PAGE A5



Oconee sheriff's deputies practice school bus assault scenarios during their annual SWAT camp this week.

## WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Oconee SWAT team works to be 'ready to go' in any situation

BY STEVEN BRADLEY  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Hunking men in flak jackets and helmets boarding a school bus with automatic weapons is a sight no one ever wants to see, least of all Ken Washington.

But Washington's job, as the captain who oversees special operations for the Oconee County Sheriff's Office, is to have his team ready to handle just such a situation, and so that scene



The OCSO SWAT team's instructors have more than 70 years of combined experience.

played out repeatedly this week during the sheriff's office's annual "SWAT camp."

SWAT stands for Special Weapons and Tactics, and while Capt. Washington and his team are hopeful they will never have to put their practice into action, they

want to be ready for any worst-case scenario imaginable.

"One thing we never want to have to do is a bus assault," Washington said. "Those are some dangerous

SEE SCENARIO, PAGE A5

## Police: Walmart assistant manager stole \$5K

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — A former Walmart assistant manager was arrested this week on charges that he allegedly stole approximately \$5,000 when he was managing the store.

Kenneth Dwayne McElreath, 38, of 1238 Greenfield Road, Westminster, was charged with breach of trust with fraudulent intent. He was released Tuesday from the Oconee County Detention Center on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.



McElreath

A store official told Oconee sheriff's deputies the shift money count was coming up short on several dates between March 1 and July 3, according to a report filed by the sheriff's office. The report stated that video surveillance footage allegedly captured McElreath "taking money out of the safe and money bag on different occasions."

McElreath allegedly wrote a confession statement and was terminated from his job.

## Cain: County needs policy for handling idle buildings

BY STEVEN BRADLEY  
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — The old Oconee County Courthouse is in shambles, and one county council member says the county can't afford to have future idle buildings fall into disrepair.

Paul Cain is the chair of the Real Estate, Facilities and Land Management Committee. The first scheduled committee meeting of the councilman's tenure is Aug. 12, and he plans to propose an ordinance at that time.

The District 3 councilman, who represents the Seneca area, said he wants to ensure a plan is in place for when a county build-



Cain

## Blue Ridge Bank backs 9/11 memorial

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Citing the impact of the 9/11 attacks on the banking industry, Blue Ridge Bank has become the first Upstate financial institution to make a significant contribution toward the building of a 9/11 memorial in Oconee County.

During a recent ceremony at the bank's Bountiful office, Blue Ridge

first half of a two-year commitment toward construction of the memorial.

"The banking and financial industries were a clear target of the 9/11 terrorists when they flew two planes into New York's World Trade Center," Buddin said. "It is only fitting that banks play a lead role in seeing that this tragic event never be forgotten."

Blue Ridge Bank has

Blue Ridge Bank president and CEO Glenn Buddin, left, and president JoAnn Bryson, right, present a \$7,500 check to Brandon Shirley, chairman of the Oconee County 9/11 Memorial Committee. The volunteer group









# Morning News

THURSDAY JULY 10, 2014

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
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## SC justices: Prosecutor can investigate House speaker

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's top prosecutor has the authority to investigate House Speaker Bobby Harrell, the state's highest court ruled Wednesday, saying Attorney General Alan Wilson properly empaneled a state grand jury to consider allegations that the powerful Charleston Republican abused his power for personal benefit.



Wilson



Harrell

The ruling overturned a lower court's decision earlier this year to halt the prosecutor's investigation. Wilson had been appealing a decision by Circuit Judge Casey Manning, who said Wilson hadn't shown any criminal evidence against Harrell and also ruled that legislative ethics panels — which are only empowered to investigate civil allegations —

See **JUSTICES**, Page 4A

## ACTING LIKE PIRATES



James Reeves (left) practices a sword-fighting routine with Elisa Morgan on Wednesday during the Florence Little Theatre's "Acting Up!" camp. For more, see Page 3A.

JOHN RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

## CRUNCH TIME

Wednesday was the first day of major structural demolition for the historic Trust building since work began last month at the downtown Florence site. Until now, crews from Wofford Demolition and Renovation Specialist have demolished other buildings on the site and removed the interior and façade of the 95-year-old building. Work is expected to wrap up in three weeks, with the roads around the building to be reopened possibly sooner than that. Parts of West Evans and South Irby streets were closed around the site on June 27 for the demolition work. A Francis Marion University health sciences center will be built on the site.

— Gavin Jackson



PHOTO BY GAVIN JACKSON/MORNING NEWS

A demolition worker walks past an excavator Wednesday as it takes down several floors of the Trust building in downtown Florence.

**BELOW:** Similar to the Jaws of Life, a hydraulic claw is picking apart the seven-story Trust building bit by bit. The approach is slow moving but effective in containing debris. The reinforced concrete slab floors of the building break apart in pieces, not in entire slabs.



## Downtown Florence

# Façade projects get nod

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The city of Florence's Design Review Board approved two building façade renovation projects in the historic overlay district Wednesday.

The old Hyman Law Firm building — now the Hatfield Temple Law Firm, at 177 W. Evans St. — will shed layers of plaster, stucco and wood from its 1925 façade to present windows, a storefront and canopy with fresh plaster and paint.

Wood covers the street-level façade. Plaster covers the entire building. Stucco covers the plaster on the second level. The main entrance to the building faces the County Complex, but the Evans Street entrance will be restored with an aluminum and glass storefront.

Dennis Ward, of FW

Architects, told the DRB the project will restore the façade to its historical appearance, including its yellow-cream color.

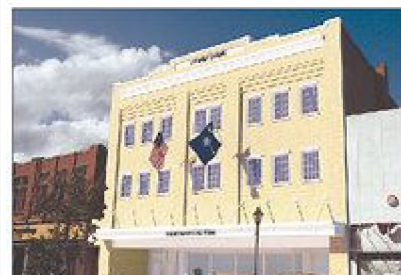
"We're trying to replicate the storefront that was there for the store," Ward said. "Once you're inside and remove the plywood, the original display areas are still standing. So we want to try to reproduce that, and we're hoping the existing tenant will use that lower level."

A rendering depicts the bright color, a contrast to the dark brick and predominately earth-tone stucco buildings in the district.

Since the color is original to the building, it was easily approved rather than the neutral earth tones recommended by the city.

"Even though the building was originally built in brick, it was always

See **PROJECTS**, Page 4A









THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014

# The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | TheTandD.com | 3 SECTIONS, 36 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 191

## Body believed to be a man found in corn field near Holly Hill

By RICHARD WALKER  
T&D Staff Writer

HOLLY HILL — Orangeburg County authorities are working to identify a body discovered off a frontage road near Holly Hill.

Sheriff Leroy Ravenell said the individual was located Tuesday in a corn field off Farm Field Road, which runs parallel with Interstate 95. The person has not yet been identified, but author-

ities tentatively believe it was a man.

"At approximately 8:30 p.m., a concerned citizen was working in the area along Farm Field Road, Holly Hill and smelled the stench of something decaying," Ravenell said. "The individual followed the stench and located a shoe in a ditch."

"The person called law enforcement and upon our arrival we located human remains behind a bush."

Authorities were notified by a man

working on a water tower about a quarter mile south of Highway 166. According to an incident report, the tower worker said he was driving on Farm Field Road when he noticed the odor. He located a Nike shoe in the ditch when he investigated the cause of the smell.

When deputies arrived, they began searching the east side of Farm Field Road where the shoe was located. Crime scene investigators were called

in as standard protocol when deputies located the body.

Authorities have not determined if foul play is involved in his death.

"We are not ruling anything out," Ravenell said.

Authorities have not said how long they believe the individual has been in the remote area just off the interstate. The incident report tentatively lists July 4th as a possible date that the man's body came to rest beside the in-

terstate frontage road.

The individual is said to have been wearing black pants in addition to the gray Nike shoes. Investigators reported they were unable to determine the man's race due to decomposition.

If anyone has any information that may pertain to the individual, they are asked to call the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office at 803-534-3550.

■ Contact the writer: 803-533-5536 and [rwalker@timesanddemocrat.com](mailto:rwalker@timesanddemocrat.com).



Orangeburg Veterans Memorial Park was dedicated in 2009. The park is located on Riverside Drive across the street from the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce building.

CHRISTOPHER HUFF/T&amp;D

## City getting \$1.3 M for Walmart store land

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
T&D Staff Writer

Orangeburg City Council is preparing to sell a 7.48-acre parcel for almost \$1.3 million to a development firm that wants to build a Walmart Neighborhood Market.

Alec Chaplin gave the land to the city at no cost in 2010. It is located directly behind CVS, with frontage on both U.S. Highway 301 and Stonewall Jackson Boulevard.

"I'd like on behalf of the city to thank Mr. Alec Chaplin. He donated this property, the entire parcel, to the city in 2010 in hopes that the city could later do something with it. He understood that we may sell it so we could locate a business there," City Administrator John Yow said.

"We on city council appreciate Mr. Chaplin," noted Mayor Michael Butler.

During a special called meeting Wednesday, City Council gave first reading an ordinance allowing the sale of the land for \$1,275,000 to Cypress Equities. The parcel is zoned for commercial use.

Cypress plans to develop a 41,000-square-foot Neighborhood Market on the site. The markets are about one-quarter of the size of a typical Walmart Supercenter.

Neighborhood Markets offer produce, meat and dairy products, bakery and deli items,

See LAND, A3

DAY 25

# 100 OBJECTS IN 100 DAYS

## Orangeburg Veterans Memorial Park salutes fallen military personnel

T&amp;D Staff Report

Late Orangeburg Korean War veteran Edward "Victor" Fenton III wrote a letter to the editor in the Times and Democrat in November 1998 expressing concerns about the lack of a visible and adequate veterans memorial in Orangeburg.

Eleven years later, city leaders and the community celebrated the dedication of Orangeburg Veterans Memorial Park located on Riverside Drive across the street from the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce building.

At TheTandD.com

The memorial features a 25-foot obelisk,

Sponsored by:



Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce

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ORANGEBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

## Supreme court rules prosecutor can keep on with probe of Harrell

By MEG KINNARD  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's top prosecutor has the authority to investigate House Speaker Bobby Harrell, the state's highest court ruled Wednesday, saying Attorney General Alan Wilson properly empowered a state grand jury to consider allegations the powerful Charleston Republican abused his power for personal benefit.

The ruling overturned a lower court's decision earlier this year to halt the prosecutor's



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