

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To:
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Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, September 10, 2014

SC Front Pages – Wednesday, September 10, 2014



METRO, 3A

FED PROBE

Hollywild report finds violations

BUSINESS, 11A

Downtown gets new cafe, music venue

The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY OBAMA SAYS HE HAS POWER TO STRIKE TERRORISTS PAGE 1B

FINAL EDITION

Father detained after 5 children found dead

By Jay Reeves
and Brynn Anderson
Associated Press

CAMDEN, Ala. — A man is suspected of killing his five children in South Carolina and then driving all the way to Alabama before dumping their bodies on a dirt road and fleeing to Mississippi, authorities said Tuesday. Follow-



Jones

Timothy Ray Jones Jr., 32, has been charged with unlawful neglect by a legal custodian and po-

licing his arrest, he led police to the site where the lifeless children were found wrapped in individual plastic bags.

Police expect to file additional charges as the investigation develops, Lexington County, South Carolina, Sheriff Lewis McCarty said in a statement.

Jones was being held in Smith County, Miss., and awaiting extradition to South Carolina, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation said in a news release.

Wilcox County, Ala., District

Attorney Michael Jackson told The Associated Press that Jones is suspected of killing the children in South Carolina and leaving their bodies in a rural area near Camden, Ala.

The children ranged from 1 to 8 years old and were reported missing by their mother on Sept.

See CHILDREN, Page 6A

Clemson breaks into Top 20 list

U.S. News puts school in five-way tie for 20

By Ron Barnett
Staff writer
rbarnett@greenvillenews.com

Clemson University was only a hundredth of a point away from making U.S. News & World Report's list of Top 20 public universities last year, so on fourth and an inch, it wouldn't be denied again.

Clemson broke through Tuesday into the rarefied realm it had been striving to reach for 15 years — achieving a goal that had been lauded by some as a national benchmark and criticized by others as a misguided way to focus a university's energies.

On Tuesday, though, it was all about celebration, as the university's overall ranking as an institution achieved the distinction of being ranked higher than its venerable football team was in the polls.

The University of South Carolina ranked No. 55.

"To be ranked among the nation's top public universities is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, students and trustees and the support of our alumni, donors, friends and volunteers," Clemson President James P. Clements said.

"I congratulate the entire Clemson family on this well-deserved recognition, especially President Emeritus Jim Barker, who started us on this path 15 years ago."

Barker, who led the university to the edge of the promised land but left it to Clements to enter in, has said it wasn't so much the ranking in itself that was important but that the criteria the magazine was using to judge schools matched where Clemson wanted to go.

Barker had aimed Clemson's sights on the Top 20 early in his presidency but left office in January just shy that elusive goal, at No. 21.

Clemson has been in the top 25 for the past seven years.

"The goal has always been about making Clemson a better university and increasing the value of a Clemson degree," Barker said. "We knew that if we focused on our students, the rankings would take care of themselves."

"The credit for this recognition belongs to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and the board of trustees of



BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF

Rubble is all that remains of most of Poe Mill off Buncombe Road near downtown Greenville. The city is planning to build a park on the site as part of a plan to revitalize the area.

TURNING A CORNER

'Poe Mill Gateway: Mural Project' key step in revitalization of neighborhood

By Angela Davis
Staff writer
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A new park, landscaping and re-investment in the community are all part of a grand vision to revitalize Greenville's historic Poe Mill neighborhood.

just outside the Greenville city limits.

Community residents said in a report the "uninviting aesthetic appeal and concentration of criminal activity" at that corner "creates an impediment for attracting new investments, families searching for affordable housing and future visitors."



Five S.C. children found dead; father detained. SOUTH, B1



C of C class takes bite of world history

FOOD, D1



Clemson, S.C. schools fare well in U.S. News rankings

SOUTH, B1

The Post and Courier

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WEDNESDAY, September 10, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, North Charleston, S.C. ★★ \$1.00



DEPUTY JOSEPH J. MATUSKOVIC, 45, died of gunshot wounds during the standoff Monday night.



DEPUTY MICHAEL S. ACKERMAN, 43, was shot in the leg and seriously wounded.



LARRY BRITTON, 58, was managing communications when he suffered a heart problem and died.



MICHAEL OSWALD, 38, was identified as the gunman. He died at the scene from a gunshot wound.

'Incomprehensible'

Slain deputy, others in West Ashley standoff identified as law enforcement and community mourn



Charleston County Coroner Rae Wooten and Sgt. David Owens embrace before the start of a news conference following the shooting of two Charleston County Sheriff's Office deputies Monday night in West Ashley.

BY ANDREW KNAPP
AND GLENN SMITH
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gsmith@postandcourier.com

A pair of veteran sheriff's deputies and their trainees knew Monday night that they would encounter a drunken resident in a West Ashley apartment complex.

They knew two off-duty deputies who live at The Gardens at Ashley River had called for their help because the man was pounding on doors and cars.

When they got there, the responding deputies knew they would be taking over the situation because they were wearing protective vests, officials said. The off-duty lawmen were not.

A day later, though, it was unclear whether they knew how 38-year-old Michael Donovan Oswald, who had been arrested before for crashing a car while drunk and another time for carrying a pistol, might react to their presence.

As the off-duty deputies stood back while the other three knocked and identified themselves, the of-



Two bullet holes are seen Tuesday in a door across a courtyard at The Gardens apartments in West Ashley, where two sheriff's deputies were shot Monday.

Ficers had no reason to expect that they would be sprayed with bullets that came through the door, a Charleston County Sheriff's Office official said Tuesday.

Please see SHOOTING, Page A6

Area pays tribute to the fallen

BY GLENN SMITH
gsmith@postandcourier.com

As authorities worked to determine what sparked a deadly standoff at a West Ashley apartment complex Monday night, friends and colleagues paused to remember two public servants who lost their lives and a third who lay wounded in a hospital.

Charleston County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Matuskovic, a 45-year-old father of three, was shot to death in the incident. He had been a law enforcement officer for 17 years, most of which he spent at the Charleston Police Department. He resigned from the department in 2011 and took a job with the Sheriff's Office, according to state records.

Please see TRIBUTE, Page A7

Kovach indicted on new charge

Berkeley schools official now facing forgery count

BY BRENDA RINDGE
brindge@postandcourier.com

Already accused of improperly trying to influence the outcome of an election, Berkeley County School District's communications director now faces a second charge related to the same 2012 Yes 4 Schools referendum.

Amy Kovach, 43, was indicted by a Berkeley County grand jury Tuesday on one count of forgery, a felony that carries a fine and up to five years in jail.

"To say that I'm shocked would be a gross understatement," Kovach's lawyer, Jerry Theos, said after the indictment was announced. "The Attorney General's Office didn't advise me in advance that they were seeking an indictment. They have not provided me

Please see KOVACH, Page A6

Brace for long haul in ISIS fight, veterans say

Obama to address nation Wednesday

BY SCHUYLER KROPE
skrope@postandcourier.com

When Marine Corps veteran Andrew Kripert left the fight in Afghanistan for the last time in 2012 he was under no illusions that America's war with Islamic extremists was over.

"It never crossed my mind that we were done — at all," said Kripert, 27, who is now enrolled as a day student at The Citadel.

"I believe my grandkids are going to be fighting over there at some point," he added, "or at least deployed if they choose to join the military."

With President Obama scheduled to

Please see VETERANS, Page A5



Poll

What do you think about President Barack Obama's ability to respond effectively to the Islamic State insurgency in Iraq and Syria? Find this story at postandcourier.com/poll/s to vote.



Mostly cloudy.
High 88. Low 70.
Complete 3-day
forecast, B12

Bridge B11
Business B2
Classifieds C1
Comics \$10.11
Crosswords \$10.65
Editorials A12
Food G1
Movies B9

Obituaries B4
Sports C1
Television B8
The South B1

Charleston Deals today

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

The State

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

LEXINGTON COUNTY FAMILY

5 children slain; dad in custody

Bodies found in Alabama; authorities believe they were killed in Lexington County

By RACHAEL MYERS LOWE
and HARRISON CAHILL
rcahill@thestate.com

The bodies of five Lexington County children, ages 1-8, have been found in Alabama and their father, Timothy Ray Jones, 32, of Lexington County will be charged, Lexington County Sheriff Lewis McCarty said Tuesday night.

Arrangements were being made Tuesday night to return the bodies to Lexington County for autopsy and to bring Jones back to the state to face charges in the children's deaths, McCarty said.

Jones was charged earlier with unlawful neglect by a legal custodian, McCarty said.

The bodies of the five children were found around 4:45 p.m.

outside the town of Camden, Ala. Authorities have not said how they were killed.

Wilcox County, Ala., District Attorney Michael Jackson said the father is suspected of killing the children in Lexington County, and dumping the bodies in Alabama.

The neighbors of the Red Bank man who is accused of killing his five children are distraught.

One woman was too upset to speak about the family: Her husband said she used to babysit the kids while Jones would go to work as a computer technician.

Tuesday night, the single-wide mobile home on the 2100 block of South Lake Drive where Timothy Jones lived, still had a light on after crime scene investigators searched for clues connecting Jones to the slayings.

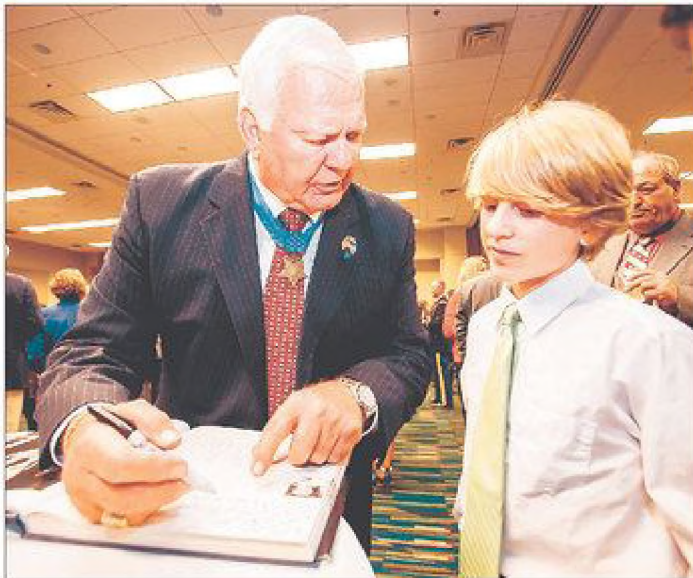
Inside the home, clothes and a hamper were strewn around the room that was lit. Outside, trash cans were scattered throughout the yard. Behind the home, tires were laid out in a pattern that football players use for agility training.

"This is a very tragic situation," Jackson, the Wilcox County, Ala.,

SEE CHILDREN PAGE A8

EVENING OF HONOR

3 Medal of Honor recipients feted in special program



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF BLAKE/BLAKE@THESTATE.COM

Medal of Honor recipient Navy Lt. Michael Thornton, above, gives some advice to Nick Petta, 14, Tuesday while signing a Medal of Honor book for him during An Evening of Honor at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

At right, Marine Maj. Gen. James Livingston chats with fellow Medal of Honor recipient and Marine Cpl. Kyle Carpenter during the dinner and program held to recognize the three men. For more photographs from Tuesday night's event, go to thestate.com.



TROOPER SHOOTING

Officials' silence fuels anger, suspicion

'Is this open season on black men?' state lawmaker asks

By CLIF LeBLANC
clifl@theblanc.com

Five days after the fact, state and local authorities have not released a video or details in the shooting of an African-American motorist by a white Highway Patrol trooper, and the lack of information has fueled plans for a safety forum for black men.

"There is this sensitivity to this now, and it is raw," Rep. Joe Neal, D-Richland, and a former chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, said Tuesday. "People are worried."

"If this man (driver Levar Edward Jones) really was unarmed and there was no struggle, then why did the man (Trooper S.M. Groubert) have to shoot? What does this mean? Is

SEE SHOOTING PAGE A5

TRAFFIC STOPS BY RACE

Figures from January through August 2014 show that whites are stopped by police considerably more often than blacks. The data are incomplete, however.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Total number of Caucasian males and females: 108,383, or 62.9 percent, of all 172,075 stops in which no one was ticketed or issued a warning.

Total number of African-American males and females: 57,387, or 33.3 percent, of the same type of stops.

STATEWIDE, AMONG 132 POLICE AGENCIES REPORTING

Total number of Caucasian males and females: 262,950, or 59.2 percent, of 443,862 stops in which no one was ticketed or issued a warning.

Total number of African-American males and females: 165,410, or 37.2 percent, of the same type of stops.

SOURCE: S.C. Department of Public Safety

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DRIVE IN HISTORY

Drive in theater opening soon near Columbia airport

Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, September 10, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 253 Aiken, S.C. ★ ★ 75¢

Storm funds: Who's responsible? A look at Woodside's storm cleanup and costs

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

The power outages and downed trees from a February ice storm are all a thing of the past, but the messy politics that linger will take more than a dump truck to clear up.

First, the recovery effort in Aiken and controversy regarding the snail's pace of debris removal was a major factor in the June resignation of former Aiken City Manager Richard

Pearce. Now, Woodside Plantation, an exclusive gated community on the Southside, is requesting reimbursement for the community's self-funded recovery effort. That request, in turn, led to another gated community, Kalmia Landing, to make a similar request this week.

The Woodside Property Owners Association has asked for about \$300,000 after the group hired independent contractors to speed the cleanup effort there. Kalmia Landing

The numbers

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>How much debris was picked up?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Aiken: 203,000 cubic yards • S.C. Department of Transportation: 52,000 cubic yards <p>is asking for nearly \$19,000. Those two requests, if approved,</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodside contractors: 7,400 cubic yards • The high amount picked up by the City of Aiken stems from also picking up debris on state right-of-way. Please see NUMBERS, Page 5A. <p>would be almost 20 percent of the federal disaster relief funding issued to</p> |
|---|---|

the City of Aiken for the City's entire recovery effort. Aiken City Council heard and debated the requests Monday and said it would study the issue and revisit the topic at the next meeting.

Across the political spectrum in Aiken and on the City Council, the battlelines in the debate seem to be developing based on which side of the Woodside gates one lives.

Please see **FUNDS**, Page 5A.

WIN TICKETS! South Carolina vs. Georgia

• Inside this newspaper is a chance to win two tickets to see the Gamecocks take on the Bulldogs on Sept. 13.

• Look for the ticket giveaway advertisement, cut out the entry form and fill out the information. The drawing is Sept. 11.

INSIDE TODAY



Hornets sweep Mustangs for first region win

Sports, 1B

Two area teams remain ranked in latest poll

Sports, 1B

Spurrier prepping USC for big chance vs. UGA

Sports, 1B

Apple reveals smartwatch and new, larger iPhones

National News, 10A

AREA DEATHS

Brenda J. LaBord, Edgefield
Brenda Matlock Whitt Rollison, Jackson
Brodie Joseph "BJ" LaMarr Jr., Augusta
Johnny "Chris" Senn, Beechisland
Lois Fulmer Hair, Gloverville
Rosalie Dolan (Sellar) Brainard, Newport, R.I.
Vonnie B. Gentry, Wagener
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

WEATHER

Kids, elders enjoy Grandparents' Day



Aleda Negrete, left, celebrates Grandparents' Day at Greendale Elementary School with her daughter, Beatriz Fernandez, and her grandson, Julian Fernandez.



Caroline Cook and her granddaughter, fifth-grader Kinsley Mullings, enjoy breakfast together during Grandparents' Day at Greendale Elementary School.



Vickie Key enjoys the chance to spend time with her granddaughter, first-grader Jordan Hodges, during Greendale Elementary School's Grandparents' Day on Tuesday.



Left - Adryan Henry, center, a Greendale Elementary School third-grader, is glad her grandmother, Wendy Crawford, left, attended Grandparents' Day on Tuesday, because "she is so loving and so caring." Joining them is Crawford's grandson, James Henry - Adryan's cousin.

ONLINE

See more photos from Greendale Elementary School's Grandparents' Day.

ARMC to build medical facility

Aiken Regional announces new building before University Hospital recommendation

BY MAAYAN SCHECHTER
mschechter@aikenstandard.com

Aiken Regional Medical Centers announced Tuesday the hospital plans to construct an 12,000-square-foot urgent care and retail pharmacy facility.

The facility will be located on the road front property in The Village at Woodside's entrance, and on Aug. 5, the hospital signed a letter of intent to build a 10,000- to 12,000-square-foot facility at its front entrance, according to a statement provided by Aiken Regional.

The urgent care center will provide alternatives to the hospital's emergency department for people with lesser emergencies.

What do you think?

Comment on this story at www.aikenstandard.com or send an email to editorial@aikenstandard.com.

The statement went on to say access to care from Woodside and the surrounding communities will be more convenient and less expensive.

Aiken Regional said it plans to submit an application to Planning Commission within one to two months.

This announcement came minutes before

Planning Commission voted to forward an application request from University Healthcare System, of Augusta, to develop a 7,500-square-foot urgent care facility in Aiken. The recommendation will go to City Council for its first reading on Monday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building, 214 Park Ave.

Commission members Bob Besley and John McMichael abstained from the vote.

The Hospital's board of directors voted last month to appropriate about \$2.7 million to build the facility at 1021 Silver Bluff Road. The development will be located on approximately 7.5 acres, and the surrounding area has the potential



The Beaufort Gazette

WEDNESDAY, September 10, 2014

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Obama considers military airstrikes as **'THE NEXT PHASE'** in fight against terrorism in Syria

By ANITA KUMAR and LESLEY CLARK • McClatchy Washington Bureau

President Barack Obama is considering authorizing U.S. military airstrikes in Syria as part of a broader campaign that will include additional resources in the form of money, training and diplomatic support for those fighting the terrorist group responsible for murdering hundreds and beheading two American journalists.

The airstrikes, which Obama would launch without seeking a vote from Congress, would be the new element in a developing strategy Obama plans to explain in a 9 p.m. speech to the nation today from the White House.

Obama also will reiterate that he has not seen any immediate threats to the United States.



INSIDE
A look at how the U.S. has justified previous military action. **11A**

Please see PHASE on 11A

A metal board in the shape of a gunman sits on an old bunker last month at an observation point on Mount Bental in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, overlooking the border with Syria's Quneitra province.

The Associated Press photo

9/11 ANNIVERSARY

NYC police: Terror threat more complex than ever

By COLLEEN LONG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Airstrikes in Iraq, ongoing unrest in Syria and the beheadings of two American journalists are casting a long shadow over the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

While there is no specific threat against New York ahead of the Thursday commemoration, the rising power of disparate militant groups around the world presents the most complex terrorism danger since the twin towers were destroyed, New York intelligence officials said this week.

Please see TERROR on 11A



The World Trade Center flag is presented as friends and relatives of the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks gather at the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site last year.

AT ROBERT SMALLS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Reports: 2 make weapons threats

One student claims to have been bullied on bus, in classroom

By LAURA OBERLE
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843-706-8139

Two Robert Smalls International Academy students allegedly threatened on Friday to bring guns to school, according to Beaufort County Sheriff's Office reports.

A teacher reported that at about 11 a.m., one of her students threatened to bring a gun and "take care of things" following an argument with another student. The age and grade level of the student were not disclosed in a report or by the Beaufort County School District.

The school serves students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

The boy told deputies he had been harassed by another student on the bus and during class and was fed up with teachers not noticing.

He denied saying he was going to bring a gun to school.

The school resource officer referred the student's case to family court for disturbing schools, then turned him over to his mother, the report said.

Another student was physically restrained Friday after she attempted to kick teachers and school administrators while screaming obscenities, the report said.

After the student was handcuffed by the school resource officer, she continued trying to kick teachers, administrators and the officer, and threatened to shoot and kill students and staff, the report said. One teacher reported a minor scratch on her arm.

The officer said the student's behavior ranged from screaming and enraged to laughing and crying within the

Please see THREATS on 11A

JASPER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Solicitor: Panel's chief out of line

Berty Riley does not have the authority to remove someone from a public meeting, Stone says.

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

The Jasper County school board's

ON THE WEB

For video of Jasper County res-

authority to instruct the Sheriff's Office to remove someone," Stone said Tuesday.

Jasper County Sheriff Gregory Jen-

PROPERTY DISPUTE

Lawsuit claims bank forced borrowers into foreclosure

By DAN BURLEY
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843-706-8142

VIDEO ONLINE

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Darlington County

Three schools getting new roofs

BY CHRISTOPHER MCKAGEN
Hartsville Messenger
cmckagen@foxnews.com

LAMAR — Buildings at three schools in Darlington County will soon have new roofs installed after the Darlington County Board of Education approved bids on the projects Monday night at Spaulding Middle School.

Roofs at Hartsville High's building 4, Darlington High's band and chorus building, and Brunson Dargan's alert building will all be replaced. I & E Specialties out of Lexington landed the contracts for the Darlington High and Brunson Dargan roofs after submitting low bids of \$246,100 and \$248,925, respectively. The Hartsville High contract will be given to LaFave's Construction from

Landis, North Carolina, after the company proposed a low bid of \$515,000. Gardner Roofing of Hartsville bid on all three projects, but each bid came in much higher than the low bids.

The board discussed the process of selecting low bids and agreed giving contracts to local businesses, if the difference in bids were nominal, is always preferable. However, the difference in the three approved bids and the three from the Hartsville contractor totaled \$156,775.

In other news, a traffic study will be conducted at Hartsville Middle School soon in an effort to come up with ways to decrease the strain of traffic. Board members said traffic at the school, and other schools like North Hartsville Elementary, have caused big issues for years.

A group of engineers will be hired, Superintendent Eddie Ingram said, to survey the school and decide what could be done. Ingram said he believed another access point could vastly improve traffic flow in the afternoons during pick-up.

The superintendent said no cost figure existed yet, but he gave a "rough" estimate in the range of \$15,000-\$20,000 for the study. Once the study is completed, it would be submitted to the S.C. Department of Transportation for approval.

The board recognized 44 district students in third through eighth grades that earned a perfect score on at least one section of the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards test. Each student received a trophy



CHRIS MORGAN/HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

Cayla Drotar (center) is recognized by the Darlington County Board of Education on Monday for being named the 2014 Gatorade South Carolina Softball Player of the Year.

See ROOFS, Page 3A

Darlington

Joe's Grill celebrates 62 years of friendship

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Probably not many businesses hold grand re-openings, but Joe's Grill, on Russell Street in Darlington, has a lot to celebrate, having opened 62 years ago.

Owner Joey Saleeby Jr. said he feels like he has been at the good old country cooking restaurant every day of his life. That's because he has, except for four days when he was first born.

"I came here when I was 4 days old, straight from the hospital," he said standing behind the counter. "My dad wanted to show me off, so they set me in a cardboard box on the counter. Since then I've poured my heart and soul into this place."

Joe Saleeby Sr. bought the place and opened on Jan. 19, 1952. The building the restaurant is housed in was moved from the Florence air field and used to keep German prisoners of war. Originally, it was opened as the Song Book social club until Saleeby's father bought it.

Pretty much since 1952, the restaurant has been continuously open, except for a fire in 2004 that closed the restaurant for eight weeks.

See GRILL, Page 3A

The Rooster crows again



PHOTOS BY ARDIE ARVIDSON/THE HARTSVILLE MESSENGER

The Midnight Rooster Coffee Shop, Courtyard & Eatery's new owner, Suzanne Galloway, assisted by chef Laura Benigni, cuts the ribbon for the grand reopening on Thursday afternoon. Also helping with the ceremony are Aimee Cox-King (left) president of the Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Mel Pennington and Suzy Moyd, executive director of Main Street Hartsville.

Popular business hosts Grand Reopening

BY ARDIE ARVIDSON
arvidson@hartsvillemessenger.com

Well-wishers packed the Midnight Rooster Coffee Shop, Courtyard & Eatery on Thursday evening for the grand reopening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the popular eatery and coffee shop in downtown Hartsville.

New owner Suzanne Galloway hosted the celebration. Galloway



2014 Marching Madness

INSIDE



Herald-Journal

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IN A HURRY
5 Things
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New Apple watch

Apple unveiled its long-anticipated smartwatch Tuesday, introducing a device that aims to put many of the functions of a smartphone onto a smaller screen that's never more than an arm's length from the wearer's eyes. **PAGE C5**

5 bodies found

A man is suspected of killing his five children in South Carolina and then driving all the way to Alabama before dumping their bodies on a dirt road and fleeing to Mississippi, authorities said. **PAGE A5**

Rebels in California

Byrnes High's football prowess got the team an invitation to play in California. The Rebel Touchdown Club made certain the Rebels got there. The Rebels were scheduled to leave from Charlotte, N.C., on two airplanes this morning on their cross-country trip to play the nationally-ranked De La Salle Spartans. **PAGE B1**

AARP class

A group of senior citizens in Cowpens on Tuesday morning examined what they want to accomplish in their remaining years through a class organized by AARP. **PAGE C1**

Arctic ship found

One of two British explorer ships that vanished in the Arctic nearly 170 years ago during a search for the fabled Northwest Passage has been found. **PAGE A3**

DISTRICT 5 GOES TO THE POLLS



MICHAEL JUSTUS/MICHAEL.JUSTUS@SHU.COM

People vote on the Spartanburg School District 5 referendum at Lyman Town Hall on Tuesday. Voters rejected \$71 million worth of planned construction and renovations at Byrnes High School.

Voters reject \$71M Byrnes referendum

Tax increase would have paid for construction, renovations at high school

By ZACH FOX
zach.fox@shj.com

Voters in Spartanburg School District 5 decided not to pay for \$71 million worth of planned construction and renovations to Byrnes High School during a referendum Tuesday.

According to unofficial results, the referendum failed by a count of 3,638 votes — 62.44 percent of the total — to 2,188 votes — 37.56 percent. The results will be certified later by Spartanburg County Board of Elections.

The \$71 million in general obligation bonds would have raised property taxes, equating to about \$53.60 on a home worth \$100,000.

Scott Turner, District 5 superintendent, said he was disappointed with the results of Tuesday's vote, adding that the district received a message from the community, loud and clear.

"We've got to figure out now how to overcome growth and structural issues," he said.

Turner also said renovations are still needed at Byrnes, and the district will now have to figure out how to find the resources to make

those improvements to the original portions of the building, built in 1955.

"We have a lot of planning to do with our board and our community," he said.

The referendum campaign was a divisive issue in District 5, Turner said, adding that he hopes the district community can come back together in the wake of the vote.

"We're one district, one high school," he said. "We're all Rebels."

The plans called for four phases of construction to the school, plus upgrades to the Byrnes football field and stadium. The referendum would have included a 40-classroom building, a 30-classroom science and lab building, a multi-purpose building and another building designed for the arts.

Construction plans also called for bringing all of the school under one roof. Currently, many students have to go from one building to another to change classes. District officials cited safety concerns as the reason for bringing Byrnes under one roof.

At Nixon Field, plans included the addition of artificial turf so multiple teams and programs could use the field. The turf had an estimated cost of around \$800,000, but district officials hoped the up-front cost would eventually negate the maintenance costs currently

Both sides want high court to rule on marriage

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Both sides in the gay marriage debate agree on one thing: It's time for the Supreme Court to settle the matter.

Even a justice recently said she thinks so, too.

The emerging consensus makes it likely that the justices soon will agree to take up the question of whether the Constitution forbids states from defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

A final ruling isn't likely before June 2015, but a decision to get involved could come as soon as the end of this month.

"I don't see a lot of reasons for them to wait," says Dale Carpenter, a gay rights expert at the University of Minnesota law school.

"You have almost no one at this point opposed to certiorari," the legal term for high court review.

Officials in five states in which marriage bans were struck down by federal courts have rushed their appeals to the Supreme Court, in time for consideration by the justices when they meet in private on Sept. 29.

Moving at breakneck speed, at least for the legal system, Indiana and Wisconsin filed appeals Tuesday, just five days after the federal appeals court in Chicago struck down their state bans.

The Chicago decision itself came just nine days after judges heard arguments, extremely fast for a process that usually is measured in months. Officials in Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia also have appealed to the Supreme Court.

Adding to the momentum, the winners in all those cases — who typically want to preserve their lower court victories and would normally oppose Supreme Court review — want the justices to weigh in. As expected, so do the losers.

In all, 36 states, encompassing both those that allow same-sex marriage and those that don't, want the justices to join the fray. Thirty businesses, including Alcoa, Amazon, eBay, General Electric, Intel, NIKE, Pfizer and Target, say the Supreme Court should extend same-sex marriage nationwide because the "current patchwork of state laws causes employees justifiable uncertainty about how their employers and governments will treat their familial relationships."

The range of cases seems to meet the standard set by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg when she predicted in an interview in July that the court would not look for ways to avoid ruling on same-sex marriage, as it did for many years on interracial marriage bans.

"I think the court will not do what they did in the old days when they continually ducked the issue of miscegenation," Ginsburg said. "If

INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

New Publix one of a kind for Lakelands, Upstate

By COLIN RIDDLE
criddle@indexjournal.com

The new Publix has been standing silently while the rumors run a-buzz.

Now, answers are here, and soon residents will be stepping inside the new construction on Bypass 72 NW.

The date has been set for the grand opening, and at 7 a.m. Sept. 20, doors open after the long-awaited arrival of a store design that can only call three states home.

While Publix stores are scattered throughout the Southeast, Greenwood's new 49,000-square-foot Publix is a unique design that is only found

in Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina — Rock Hill being the closest.

"This is a store format we have experimented with in Florida," said Kim Reynolds, spokesperson for Publix. "We just felt Greenwood was a great community to support this model."

The new structure will include a drive-thru pharmacy, a unique feature, as well as a body center with a body care specialist.

The specialist will be able to help customers meet health and wellness goals while assisting in purchasing vitamins, oils and supplements.

There will be a scratch bakery as tra-

ditionally included in Publix stores, along with a deli that offers sandwiches, soups, salads and a full-service meat case.

An extensive hot bar will offer a variety of freshly-prepared foods — a new feature being foods prepared with a wok, such as wok-bourbon chicken and pan-Asian dishes.

Artisan cheeses from around the world will be available for purchase with the assistance of a cheese specialist, and can be paired by the wine specialist.

A unique addition to Apron Simple See PUBLIX, page 4A



MADDY JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL

The newly constructed 49,000 square foot Publix on the 72 Bypass is set to have its grand opening Sept. 20 at 7 a.m.

■ UPDATES

Ninety Six track project nearing completion

By KATE HRUBY
khruby@indexjournal.com

NINETY SIX — Despite some bumps in the road, the construction of a new track at old Ninety Six High School is nearing completion in Greenwood School District 52.

Wally Hall, director of special projects in the district, provided an update on the project at Tuesday night's board meeting.

"We're probably right at the three-quarter phase," Hall told board members.

According to Hall, workers will begin to sod the infield this week, a process that should be finished by Monday. He added that the mats for field events such as high jump and pole vault were in.

Board member Dayne Pruitt raised concerns about how the district planned to keep football game attendees off the construction site, which has not yet been fenced in.

Athletic director Matt Hunsberger said he considered closing off the area entirely but could not do so because of handicapped parking. He said the district would try to avoid any problems in the area by having an officer park cars for fans with appropriate passes.

Coinciding with the update, the board approved a transfer from the general fund to debt service to pay off the debt incurred from the project as part of a hybrid funding model that takes some of the financial burden off the taxpayers for the nearly \$1 million project.

After approving the project in March, the board put the

See TRACK, page 4A

SAFETY FIRST

Residents gather to create a safer Greenwood



MADDY JONES | INDEX-JOURNAL

Greenwood Mill Village residents and local law enforcement officers gather Tuesday in West Cambridge Park and bow their heads in prayer at the start of the 4th annual Neighborhoods Celebrating a Safer Greenwood. Neighborhoods like Mill Village are coming together to help fight crime by bringing to light issues their community faces and to celebrate these efforts over a potluck, games, prizes, and fellowship.

Frank Warlick promissory note comes due Thursday

By FRANK BUMB
fbumb@indexjournal.com

the penalty phase — where an extra 5 percent interest is added every year the full payment is late — on Thursday.

Former Mayor Sonny Frederick said the note came during negotiations over the Ware Shoals Inn's renovation and the potential for the liabil-

Warlick offered to provide the town the promissory note for \$25,000 with a 2.8 percent annual interest rate.

Warlick previously had an agree-

and conversion of funds.

The Kasper Brothers, as the Historic Ware Shoals Inn LLC, received a judgment against Warlick and

50 jobs, \$10M investment could come to Clarendon

'Project Peak,' end of e-waste recycling focus of meeting

BY JIM HILLEY
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(803) 774-1211

The prospect of a \$10 million investment and 50 jobs in Clarendon County was enough for Clarendon County Council to agree to waive an undetermined amount of future tax revenue at its meeting Monday at the Clarendon County Administration Building in an attempt to lure an undisclosed company or group of companies to locate in the county.

The incentive is part of a project codenamed "Project Peak," which council discussed during an executive session at the meeting. Council later passed the first reading of resolutions for the project.

The resolutions will allow the undisclosed company or companies to pay a fee in lieu of taxes and take advantage of an infrastructure credit agreement with Clarendon County. According to state law, the recipients of the tax breaks must employ approximately 50 full-time workers and invest \$10 million in the county to qualify for the credits for five years.

County residents will apparently have to wait to get more information on how their money is being spent.

"That is all the information we can give at this time," said Council Chairman Dwight Stewart Jr.



MATT WALSH / THE SUMTER ITEM

Ed Hunsucker puts a sign up at a Clarendon County recycling center on Tuesday declaring that e-waste will no longer be accepted. Recycling centers in Clarendon can't accept electronic waste because they have no way of disposing of it at this time. It can be taken to the county land-fill while the county tries to find a way to pay for the disposal of the waste, said County Administrator David Epperson at Monday's county council meeting. Council members also discussed "Project Peak," which could bring 50 jobs and a \$10 million investment to the county.

SEE CLARENDON, PAGE A8

Social services officials share coming improvement efforts

BY SEANNA ADCOX
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Officials at the Department of Social Services said Tuesday that the agency's steps to improve include working more closely with South Carolina law enforcement, creating a second shift of child welfare workers and sharing caseloads between adjacent counties.

The agency's acting and deputy directors updated reporters three months after former Director Lillian Koller resigned amid escalating, bipartisan calls for her

by both Haley's Democratic challenger, state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, and petition candidate Tom Ervin, who said he entered the gubernatorial race because he was angry about DSS.

Also on Tuesday, the National Association of Social Workers' state chapter endorsed Sheheen, who is from Camden.

In her last appearance before the Senate panel, Koller acknowledged that the caseloads of many social workers who oversee children's welfare are too large.

Acting director Amber Gillum said Tuesday too much focus has been put on

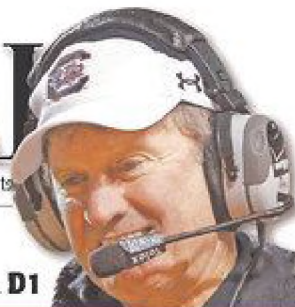
District sending 122 high school diploma petitions for final OK

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS
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(803) 774-1214

With a unanimous vote during Monday's meeting at Chestnut Oaks Middle School, Sumter School District board of trustees approved a motion to submit

Leach, assistant superintendent of school services, and records clerks went through the process of checking records for former students to determine if they met all other graduation requirements.

In early August, Leach said the school district had



BATTLE FOR THE EAST

Spurrier prepping Gamecocks for shot at Bulldogs in SEC clash. C1

ALL IN: Clemson café welcomes folks from all walks of life. B1

ARMING OPPOSITION: Obama asks for Congress' approval to arm Syrians. D1

Sex offender freed after reported assault

Man released on bond after being charged with kidnapping, sexual conduct

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A Westminster man, who was already on the sex offender registry for a conviction on kidnapping and sexual battery charges in Florida in 1989, was released on Tuesday in Oconee County after his arrest Monday on similar charges.

Michael Anthony Gilmore, 48, of 420 Ginger Drive, was

released Tuesday afternoon on a \$50,000 surety bond.

He was charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct and kidnapping after an alleged attack on a woman last week near Tokeena Crossroads.

The sex offender registry lists Gilmore's name with five other aliases — Thomas



Gilmore

M. Chase, Gator Gilmore, Mike Gilmore, Mike Anthony Gilmore and Spike Gilmore. He was convicted in Florida on Dec. 4, 1989, on charges of sexual battery and kidnapping.

Oconee County sheriff Mike Crenshaw said he was "disappointed" the bond was not higher for a convicted sex offender.

"I respect our judicial

SEE FREED, PAGE A5

'Given the fact that he is a registered sex offender, it concerns me that his bond was not higher.'

Mike Crenshaw
Oconee County sheriff

Millage decrease possible

Duke assessment rises, tax notices delayed two weeks

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Tax notices will be delayed two weeks as a result of an amended assessment of Duke Energy property by the South Carolina Department of Revenue (DOR), which could result in a millage decrease for Oconee County taxpayers this year.

Oconee County auditor Ken Nix will be back on the agenda for Tuesday's county council meeting, just as he was Sept. 2.

In an email response to questions Tuesday, Nix said he will propose a tax decrease of approximately 2 mills at next week's council meeting.

Nix said he is still working on the numbers but said he expects the value of a county mill to increase by about \$8,000 and the school district mill to increase in value by approximately \$10,000. Nix said he is waiting to set the millage because of the extra time he has "to

SEE MILLAGE, PAGE A5



Ron Osburn of the Golden Corner Lakes Sail and Power Squadron says life vests are a key component to boating safety.

STAYING AFLOAT

Vests, knowledge key to boating safety

BY NORMAN CANNADA
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — For boating safety instructor Ron Osburn, the recent accidents involving jet skis on Lake Keowee and a pontoon boat on Lake Hartwell were a reason for sadness more than anything else.

"It saddens me, because I think that was probably preventable," Osburn said of the Aug. 31 accidents that caused injuries to three on Lake Keowee and left two children dead on Lake Hartwell. "The accidents may not have been

preventable, but if everybody had a life vest on — if those kids had life vests on — they would probably be alive today. I think it's really sad that common sense doesn't say, 'Whether it's the law or not, they're wearing life vests.'"

Osburn works with the Golden Corner Lakes Sail and Power Squadron, which covers lakes Keowee, Hartwell and Jocassee.

The organization also offers safe boating courses. A new five-week course will start Thursday night at

SEE AFLOAT, PAGE A5

Moore edges Thomas in West Union election

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Doug Moore became the newest member of West Union Town Council in a special election Tuesday.

Moore, 61, has worked for Tannery Plumbing and the cities of Westminster and Walhalla. He defeated fellow candidate Chad Thomas

by three votes — 17 to 14. Four absentee votes were also tallied with no provisional ballots to be counted, according to officials with the Oconee County Office of Voter Registration and Elections.

Before the election results were fully totaled, Moore attended Tuesday night's town council meeting.

"It's in God's hands and it's in the people's hands," he said after the meeting.

Moore will join town mayor Linda Oliver and council members Sharon Zimmerman, Bethany James and Chris Johnson. He will fill the vacant seat left by former councilman Dan Cappelletti, who



Moore

Foothills YMCA director trading hats Broome to take seat on board

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Looking ahead to new challenges with the potential construction of an indoor aquatic and recreation center in Oconee County, Darryl Broome is transitioning from being

Shirley said the board's executive committee is in contractual talks with a candidate for the executive director position.

"Once all that is finalized, the Y will be able to make an announcement about the executive director," Shirley said. "We're doing some final

'Right now, you could go in here and buy a 40 foot yacht and never have been in a boat, but



Morning News

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

TODAY'S WEATHER
Sunshine and patchy clouds, high 90, low 67
DETAILS 2A

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The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Pee Dee officials react to Ray Rice incident

Incident involving NFL player could start needed dialogue on domestic violence, community leaders say

BY SHAMIRA MCCRAY
Morning News
smccray@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Monday's emergence of a video showing ex-Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice punching now-wife Janay Rice unconscious and dragging her out of an elevator has put the national spotlight on domestic



Rice

violence. An earlier video had shown Rice dragging his then-fiance's limp body out of an elevator and through an Atlantic City, New Jersey, casino elevator floor. Monday's video, released by TMZ, was from inside

the elevator and showed the ex-NFL star punching Janay Rice so hard she drops to the ground.

The NFL initially suspended Rice for two games, but after the surfacing of the new video, the Ravens cut Rice and the NFL suspended him indefinitely.

The Rice incident has started a dialogue across the country on domestic violence.

INSIDE

For more about Rice video release, see 1D.

South Carolina is ranked second in the nation for women killed by men. "We're all focused on Janay Palmer, and there are other victims right here in our community that need just as much attention as she does,"

said Jennifer Robinson, executive director of Empowered to Heal.

Empowered to Heal is a local organization devoted to mentoring and providing resources for survivors of abuse.

With the media bringing light to the surveillance video,

See **RICE**, Page 3A

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE

Field day

Clemson's PDREC invites farmers to learn about latest in agronomic crops

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL
Morning News
jrussel@florencenews.com

DARLINGTON — Farmers from all around the Pee Dee had a chance to see what's new in agriculture Tuesday at the Clemson University's Pee Dee Research and Education Center.

The annual Pee Dee Farm Field Day attracted more than 130 farmers interested in all

aspects of crop management.

Peanuts are one of the crops planting deeper roots in South Carolina

"(Peanuts) are a rapidly expanding crop," PDREC Director Matt Smith said. "Now instead of growing Georgia or Virginia for other states, we can grow and develop peanuts here and adapt it to the region or South Carolina as a whole."

Smith said the day was an opportunity for farmers to see



Steve Kresovich, Coker chair of genetics and biochemistry at Clemson University, talks about sorghum research at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center. Sorghum can be used for bioenergy or feed and typically grows well in the sandy soil of the Pee Dee.

where the research happens that Clemson Extension agents bring to their farms.

The PDREC is one of five Clemson Extension research centers in the state. Extension State Director Tom Dobbins said the PDREC and Edisto stations focus primarily on agronomics.

He said he is looking forward to the upcoming expansion of the Advanced Plant Technology lab and program at PDREC and

the impact it will make for agronomic crops.

"We hope to make it not just a leader in the state but a leader in the nation as far as advanced technology," Dobbins said. "The expansion has been a long time coming. The Pee Dee is one of the biggest agronomic regions in the state. Today is kind of a rebirth of the Pee Dee station and just the beginning of many great things that will come out of it."

Clemson Extension weed specialist Mike Marshall (left) and Francis Reay-Jones (right), of Clemson University's School of Agricultural Forest and Environmental Services, talk to farmers about cotton and soybean crops on Tuesday at the Clemson University Pee Dee Research and Education Center's Farm Field Day. More than 130 farmers took a tour of the center and learned about the latest research being done there.

PHOTOS BY JOHN D. RUSSELL/
MORNING NEWS



West Florence Fire District

Budget covers potential legal fees

BY GAVIN JACKSON
Morning News
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The \$1.39 million West Florence Fire District budget approved Monday puts the district at a funding level it has needed to be at for some time.

The budget is near the \$1.4 million WFFD originally requested when it was going to be part of the Florence County unified fire protection district. WFFD and the other rural fire districts submitted budgets to the county that totaled \$5.9 million. Funding constraints pushed the county to lower the budget to \$4.9 million in order for it to be funded through a unified 20.5 millage rate.

Now that WFFD is its own special purpose district, the newly elected five-member commission increased the tax rate from 8 mills, which garnered the district \$931,254 last year, to 12.8 mills that will generate \$1.4 million. This is higher than the \$1.1 million the county budgeted for WFFD.

An additional mill was added by the commission to generate \$110,000, which is earmarked for future legal fees.

The commission can always lower the millage after the lawsuit; however from here on, only a voter-approved referendum will

See **WFFD**, Page 3A

Ex-wife set to take stand against Floyd in attempted murder trial

BY TRACI BRIDGES
Morning News
tbridges@florencenews.com

attorneys for the state of South Carolina hope to introduce in their case against 33-year-old Mi-

chael Floyd's telephone number and in turn called him to let him know his wife had been shot. A few seconds later, Mi-

chael Floyd's telephone number and in turn called him to let him know his wife had been shot. A few seconds later, Mi-

ence County Sheriff's Investigator Mike Jack testified Tuesday. "Sometimes, when an incident like this happens, it takes awhile



CMYK



Odd

100

OBJECTS
IN 100 DAYS

DAY 87

ON A2
TODAY

NASCAR'S DOWN TO THE FINAL 10

B4



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | 3 SECTIONS, 26 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 253

\$187.4 million impact

Without S.C. State, Orangeburg a 'ghost town,' professor claims

By GENE ZALESKI
T&D Staff Writer

South Carolina State University contributed \$187.4 million to the state and local economy in 2012, according to an economic impact study the university released Tuesday.

The economic contribution points to the need for the university to remain visible into the future, says Joseph Oryeocha, an S.C. State assistant professor of accounting and one of the authors of the study.

If S.C. State were unable to keep its doors open, it would have dramatic consequences, he said.

"This town, this county would turn into a ghost town," Oryeocha said, prompting a scattering of "amens" from some of those attending a press conference held in the President's State Room in Hugine Suites.

The 14-page economic impact study examined five areas of spending by S.C. State in 2012: wages and salaries totaling \$81 million; \$41.4 million spent for supplies, services and utilities; \$34.8 million in student spending; \$28.3 million spent on construction and \$1.9 million spent by non-resident attendees of the university's 2012 Homecoming activities.

Of the \$187.4 million in total sales output, about \$99.1 million is related to labor income. The university employs 2,189 full- and part-time employees, the study notes.

Oryeocha joined Dr. Paul Rensch-Munich, assistant professor of economics, and Haile Selassie, chair of the accounting, agribusiness and economics department, in preparing the study.

The study was initiated in June and completed a couple of weeks ago. The cost of the study was \$3,500, which was spent on software. It was paid for with Title III grant funds.

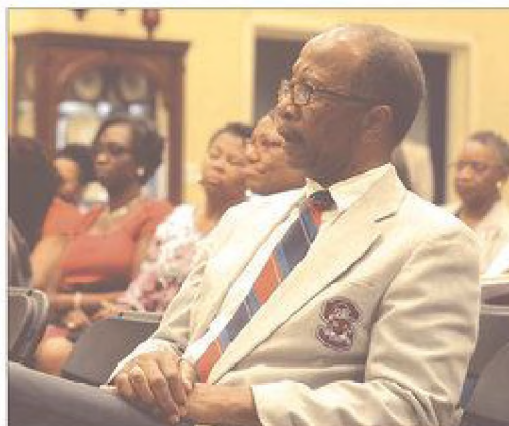
The men acknowledged the study did not take into consideration the impact of S.C. State's home football games, the 1890 Research and Extension Program, commencement activities, the L.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium or workshops and conferences.

Plans are to conduct another study in the near future that will include those figures.

Although the study was conducted internally, Oryeocha said he stands



South Carolina State University President Thomas Elzey, right, looks on as Assistant Professor Joseph Oryeocha responds to a question during a press conference Tuesday. The university released the details of an internal economic impact study.



TheTandD.com

To see more photos
and to view video from
the press conference,
visit us online at
www.TheTandD.com.

LARRY HARRY/T&D

Orangeburg County Councilman Willie B. Owens, president of the university's Orangeburg County Alumni Chapter, at Tuesday's press conference announcing the details of S.C. State's economic impact study.

SPRINGFIELD
GOVERNMENT

2 members quit council, cite lack of cooperation

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN
T&D Staff Writer

Springfield Town Council members Olin Williams Jr. and Josie Williams resigned, effective immediately, during Monday night's meeting.

The two council members, who are not related, cited their frustration with their inability to get anything done to better the town.

Olin Williams, who took office in January, said he decided to resign after Mayor Marilyn McCormick refused to let him look at receipts and expenses related to fuel and maintenance for the town's police vehicles.

Williams' voice shook with emotion on a tape recording of the meeting as he announced his resignation. He said he had asked McCormick for gas expense reports for the police department but had not received them.

"I asked her today for them and I got the door shut in my face," he said.

"I've asked Chief (Terry) Logan for the maintenance reports on the police vehicles," Williams added. "The door has been shut in my face."

"I cannot get any cooperation out of this town. ... To me, the issue I've been bringing up with the police vehicles, the way they take the cars and go out of town, ... if I keep pushing this, it's going to cause some problems with me and my job, and I can't afford that," he said.

Williams has been employed as a long-distance truck driver for years.

"So at this time, I resign as a councilman. My job is more important," he told the council Monday night.

He said he approached a Springfield police officer after he allegedly saw the officer "floorboarding it" for a distance of one block in town just to go to a restaurant.

He said he asked the officer why he was using the vehicle in

See IMPACT, A6

See COUNCIL, A6

Julian Boland,

Five missing S.C. children found

6

Brian Symmes

Cell: (803) 673-9437

Direct Line: (803) 734-0304