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To:  
Date: 3/15/2016 8:29:52 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages - Tuesday, March 15, 2016

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SC Front Pages – Tuesday, March 15, 2016

# The Post and Courier

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Tuesday, March 15, 2016

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Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

## Grade plan aims to 'level playing field'

S.C. education chief says 10-point scale to help with NCAA eligibility, scholarships

BY JEFF HARTSELL  
jhartsell@postandcourier.com

Since she was elected the state's superintendent of education in 2014, Molly Spearman has heard from both Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney and South Carolina coach Will Muschamp on at least one issue:

the state's uniform grading policy for high school students.

Spearman told the S.C. Athletic Administrators Association on Monday that the uniform grading policy is expected to shift from a 7-point grading scale to a 10-point scale beginning with the 2016-17 school year.

The policy shift will help "level the



Spearman

The new grading scale won't impact only student athletes. Spearman said as many as 13,000 more students could be eligible for schol-

arships through the S.C. Education Lottery. "It's looking like 12,000 to 13,000 more students might qualify," she said. "So we're working with the state Legislature to see if they see that as a good thing, so they can appropriate the numbers for next year."

Spearman expects an official announcement on the policy change in the next week or two.

Currently, the state's uniform grading policy says that a grade from 93-100 is an A; 85-92 is a B; 77-84 is a C; 70-76 is a D; and 69 and below is an

F. A 10-point scale means that 90 to 100 is an A; 80-89 is a B; 70-79 is a C; and 60-69 is a D.

The change will affect the way grade-point averages, or GPAs, are calculated for transcripts and class rank.

"It's not about watering down grades," she said. "It's about helping to level the playing field for our students as they compete for scholarships with students from other states."

Please see **SPEARMAN**, Page A7

## Goodbye cold snaps; hello blooms, bugs

Expert says El Nino responsible for winter's record warmth



Tourists on a carriage tour of the Charleston peninsula pass by a blooming tree on Monday on King Street.

BY BO PETERSEN  
bpetersen@postandcourier.com

The last frost date for Charleston County is March 28, according to USA Gardener. Realistically, you can brush off this winter with the pollen on your windshield.

The cold never came to stay. The December-to-February winter brought record warmth across the continental United States, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

That's why azaleas were blooming in pockets during February's last cold spell. That's why the camellias had such a showy year.

That's why Jeff Jackson, designer, environmental consultant and S.C. Native Plant Society member, happened on a red maple in the midst of the winter that had full color and spring flowers.

"Definitely the warmest winter I can remember," he said. Warm enough to throw seasonal plant cycles out of whack.

And oh, it gets better. "The bugs are already here, that's what I'm seeing. No sevens, mosquitoes. With the (recent) rains and the warmth I think we're going to have a banner year for mosquitoes," he said.

If you've paid attention to climate lately, you know who to blame. "The El Nino pattern is for warmer, and usually, a wetter winter season," said meteorologist Doug Berry, National Weather Service, Charleston.

El Nino is a Pacific warmth trend that drives winds across the United States, influencing its climate.

This winter's El Nino also was record-setting. Berry doesn't see any break in above-average warmth predicted for the next few weeks. The "break" in the heat on Friday just drops the highs below 80, but still will be a few degrees above average.

"I would generally expect that to be it for the winter season. I don't expect it to get cold again," he said.

Please see **SPRING**, Page A6

## District to cut 117 teaching positions

Charleston County move to save \$7.35M, help with shortfall

BY PAUL BOWERS  
pbowers@postandcourier.com

The Charleston County School District will cut 117 teaching positions in the fall of 2016 to help end a long-standing pattern of overspending.

"I think it will all be through attrition," said Interim Chief Financial Officer Glenn Stiegman, noting that the district typically hires hundreds of teachers every school year due to turnover.

In a special called meeting Monday afternoon, the school board was looking for solutions to its money woes — an estimated \$12.7 million budget shortfall that the district has been chipping away at since it was discovered in the fall. The district will save \$7.35 million by cutting the teaching positions, and officials have also announced they will cut 80 district office staff positions by the end of the school year.

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A6

## Ex-trooper pleads guilty in shooting

Unarmed black man wounded in 2014 stop

BY JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — A white former state trooper was led out of a South Carolina courtroom in handcuffs Monday after pleading guilty to a felony charge in the 2014 shooting of an unarmed black driver seconds after a traffic stop.

Sean Groubert will be sentenced later, but Circuit Judge Casey Manning appears to have already decided there should be some prison time because he sent Groubert to jail while he awaits the punishment. Groubert faces up to 20 years for assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. There is no minimum sentence.

Before the hearing started, Levar Jones, shot once in the hip by Groubert, walked into court with a limp. He constantly turned and twisted a Rubik's Cube, perhaps to calm himself. As prosecutors replayed the video of the shooting taken from Groubert's dashboard camera, Jones' shoulders jerked.

Please see **TROOPER**, Page A7



Groubert

### Inside

#### SPORTS

Quarterback position a big question mark as Gamecocks begin spring practice. **C1**



#### BUSINESS

Wages at Boeing's union, non-union shops vary depending on where you're looking. **B1**

#### WORLD

Putin orders start to Russian military pullout from Syria. **A8**

#### YOUR HEALTH

Plastic surgery on rise in U.S.; more men seek procedures. **D1**

## Segregated names on monument focus of Heritage Act legal battle

AG seeks to dismiss suit by veterans who want new plaques

BY GAVIN JACKSON  
gjackson@postandcourier.com

A war monument in the town of Greenwood that lists dead soldiers as "white" or "colored" is at the center of a legal battle a judge will hear Tuesday.

The state Attorney General's Office has moved to dismiss a lawsuit filed by five Greenwood residents over the controversial S.C. Heritage Act. Several members are part of American Legion Post 20, which erected the monument on Greenwood's Main Street decades ago. They claim the law limits their First Amendment right to replace the segregated plaques listing Greenwood men who fought and died in both World Wars with something more inclusive.

Please see **LAWSUIT**, Page A6



Clear, High 83, Low 65, Complete 5-day forecast, **B10**

Bridge — **B9** Crossword — **B8, C8** Sports — **C1**  
Business — **B1** Editorials — **A10** Sudoku — **B7**  
Classifieds — **C7** Movies — **B1** Television — **B6**  
Comics — **B8, 9** Obituaries — **B4** Your Health — **D1**

**Charleston Deals** today

**Anonymous Potato**  
\$6.50 for message on large potato. See Page A2.





Will Muschamp lists all five scholarship QBs as co-starters, 1B

Frank Martin, USC men put NCAA snub behind them, prepare for NIT, 1B



Brandon McIlwain



Connor Mitch



Lorenzo Nunez



Perry Orth



Michael Scarnecchia

TUESDAY MARCH 15 2016

\$1.00

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TODAY: SUNNY HI 65° LO 41°  
YESTERDAY: HI 83° LO 64° PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.00"  
FORECAST, 8C

# The State



2016 ELECTIONS

## On Super Tuesday II, 5 big states are in play

Staff reports

It's make-or-break day for Republican presidential candidates John Kasich and Marco Rubio.

Or think of Super Tuesday II — where voters go to the polls in Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio — as a Saturday in the fall.

### DEMOCRATS

The noon game features U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, kind of like Vandy and 'Bama.

Clinton has the huge lead in delegates — 1,231 to 576. But the pesky Sanders is hoping for an upset, after last week's Michigan contest.

An average of recent polls by Real Clear Politics has Clinton leading by double digits in Florida and North Carolina, with the states

SEE VOTING, 7A

UNARMED DRIVER WAS SHOT IN 2014

## Ex-trooper pleads guilty in shooting

Monday's hearing reveals ex-trooper incorrectly told investigators that victim had a pistol

"I feared for my life and had no doubt he was going to kill me," trooper told investigators

Sentencing will come later

BY JOHN MONK  
jmonk@thestate.com

Former state Highway Patrol trooper Sean Groubert pleaded guilty Monday to assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature in the 2014 shooting of an unarmed motorist at a St. Andrews gas station.

Groubert, 32, who could be sentenced to a maximum of 20 years in prison, will be sentenced at a later date. But Circuit Judge Casey Manning ordered him taken into custody immedi-

### VIDEO

THESTATE.COM: Watch the shooting captured by the camera in the former trooper's car

ately.

During a 21-minute hearing, prosecutors revealed that Groubert gave investigators a version of events sharply at variance with the scenes caught on video from the camera in his patrol car.

In his statement read by assistant solicitor Meghan Walker, Groubert told investigators that Levar Jones, the man shot, appeared to be threatening him with a pistol. Jones was wounded in the Sept. 4, 2014, incident.

Jones, Groubert told investigators, lunged into his vehicle and came back out with "his arms locked toward me and with what appeared to be an unknown black weapon in his hand. I believed it to be a pistol."

"I feared for my life as these events

SEE GROUBERT, 7A



Ex-trooper Sean Groubert in court on Monday

**“EVERYTHING WAS HAPPENING IN FAST-FORWARD.”**

Sean Groubert's statement

USC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## The fans 'make our world go 'round'

BY BEN BREINER  
bbreiner@thestate.com

South Carolina women's basketball forward A'ja Wilson pointed out, while other teams appeared on Monday night's NCAA selection show sequestered in a team room, she and her

ONLINE



BUSINESS

LEXINGTON RESTAURANT OPENS









## USC BASKETBALL, 1C TRYING TO REIGNITE



LIFESTYLE, 1D  
'Laugh for  
the Cure' to  
raise funds

# The Greenville News

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TUESDAY,  
MARCH 15, 2016  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY POLL SHOWS MILLENNIALS WOULD FLOCK TO CLINTON AGAINST TRUMP PAGE 1B

## NAACP backs police accreditation

Says Simpsonville council  
should support the effort

SCOTT KEELER

SKHEELER@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

With the deadline for payment to fund the Simpsonville Police Department's pursuit of top accreditation through CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) coming Tuesday, the Greenville Branch of the NAACP is urging Simpsonville City Council to support the efforts of the police.

The NAACP's Greenville Branch President Rev. J.M. Flemming, submitted a letter urging "the Simpsonville City Council to support the Police accreditation. The Greenville Branch of the NAACP has been working with all of the municipalities and the Sheriff in Greenville County since September 2014 to

improve the trust and community relationship as well as to encourage more training of law enforcement officers for the good of the community.

"The NAACP believes that to drop the accreditation is a step backwards. Accreditation will give the Simpsonville Police greater transparency with the community and provide guidelines when establishing police policies which improve the quality of policing for the Department and the citizens of Simpsonville."

Early last year a Greenville County computer server crash caused the Simpsonville Police Department to lose all of its emails and state accreditation files. Rather than starting from scratch on a two-year process to redo everything that was done for state accreditation, Simpsonville Police Chief Keith Grounseil asked City Council if he could pursue what's commonly referred to as national accreditation through CALEA.

The application fee and software costs for the program were approved last year as part of the 2015-16 fiscal budget.

However the \$11,000 check to pay for the application fee has yet to be signed and the deadline for doing so is Tuesday. The check must be signed by Mayor Janice Curtis, who took office Jan. 12, or Mayor Pro Tem Matthew Gooch.

Simpsonville Police Chief Keith Grounseil said if the check isn't signed by March 15, his department will be terminated from CALEA's current accreditation program and risk suspension. The department could be without any accreditation once its state accreditation expires in May.

On Monday, Curtis said her decision to not yet sign the check should not be taken as a lack of support for the police department. She said it's a business decision and also stated that CALEA is an international accreditation. Curtis added

that she can't understand how there was no backup of files prior to the computer server crash.

"Until we can get to the bottom of how we got to this point and how good international accreditation is for Simpsonville, I think that we need to pursue and maintain our state accreditation," Curtis said. "After we've completed our due diligence, then and only then will we make a decision as far as international accreditation goes."

"This is an investment. It's not just a one-time 'here's your check' and we're good to go."

When state accreditation expires in May Simpsonville could be left with no accreditation. Grounseil said he did not reapply for state accreditation last year after being approved to pursue CALEA accreditation.

See POLICE, Page 4A



Some people attending the Pickens County School Board meeting on Monday held signs urging trustees to keep schools open.

## Pickens School Board votes to close two schools

RON BARNETT

RBARNETT@GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

Dozens of parents were left standing outside in the rain at fire marshal's orders as the Pickens County School Board voted to close two schools in a raucous meeting Monday night that climaxed weeks of turmoil over how to solve the district's facilities problems.

"The two communities here have been ripped apart and they cannot be repaired," retired Pickens Elementary teacher Vickie Gibson said after the vote.

The plan that had been recommended

"The two communities here have been ripped apart and they cannot be repaired."

VICKIE GIBSON

RETIRED PICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER,  
SPEAKING AFTER THE DECISION TO CLOSE SCHOOLS

## Virtual doctor visits growing in popularity

LIV OSBY

LOSBY@GANNETT.COM

Feeling a little under the weather but don't have the time for a doctor visit? Or it's midnight and the doctor is presumably home asleep?

Telehealth might be the answer. It's a concept that allows patients to be seen remotely by a doctor via computer, tablet or mobile phone. And it's growing in popularity around the country.

One of the larger telehealth services, Teladoc, for example, this month reported 2015 revenues of \$77 million, up 78 percent over 2014; a membership of 12.2 million, up 51 percent; and 576,000 visits, an increase of 93 percent.

And it projects membership to hit about 17 million by the end of this year.

Among the most recent entries into the market is BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, which is now offering telehealth to its SC BlueCross and SC BlueChoice members.

Called Blue Care OnDemand, it allows users to consult a physician via live video round the clock for minor conditions such as colds, bruises or headaches, said chief medical officer Dr. Shawn Stinson.

"Convenience is a large part of it," he told *The Greenville News*. "From the consumer standpoint, it offers something that's potentially very attractive."

How it works

Telehealth uses technology "to deliver health care, health information or health education at a distance," according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

BlueCross contracts with a company that has board-certified physicians licensed to practice in South Carolina,







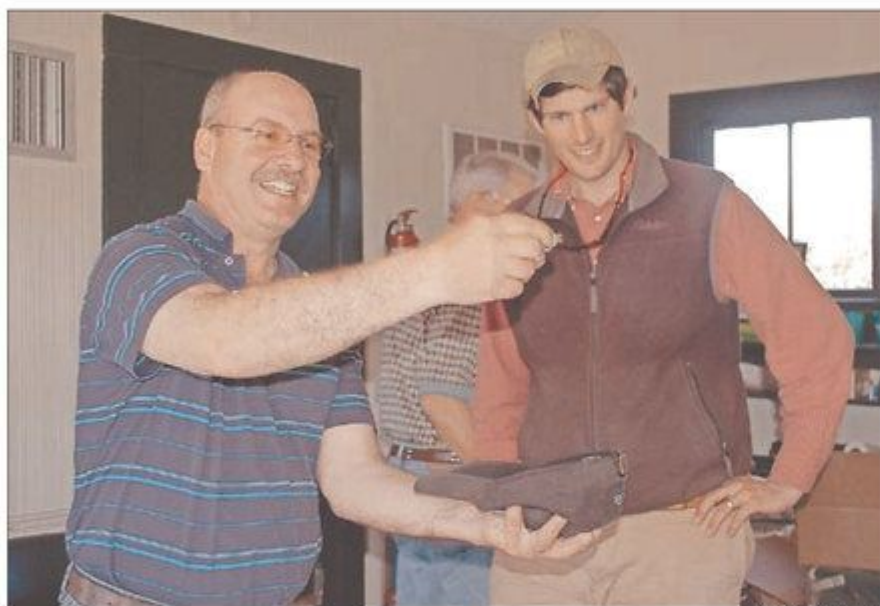
# Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

TUESDAY, March 15, 2016

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

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Aiken Training Track President Brad Stauffer, left, picks a slip of paper with a number on it out of a baseball cap during the post position draw Monday at the Training Track office for the Saturday's 74th edition of the Aiken Trials. Looking on is Justin Wojcynski, an assistant to trainer Cary Frommer.

STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

## City money helps track recruit horses for Trials

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

An effort funded by money from the City of Aiken to attract more horses to run in the 2016 Aiken Trials has produced a positive result.

Thirty-five thoroughbreds were entered Monday, and they included 13 that aren't based at the Aiken Training Track, where the Trials are held.

Seven of the 13 outside horses are stabled elsewhere in the area. Two are based in Camden, two are stabled at the Webb Carroll Training Center in St. Matthews and two are based in North Carolina.

The 74th edition of the Trials is scheduled for Saturday, and there will be six races.

"I am very happy, and I think the City will be very happy," said Aiken realtor and horsewoman Suzy Haslop, who is a member of the Aiken Trials Committee. "This was obviously a successful endeavor and a good investment of the City's funds. My goal was to get 10 outside horses to come, and we got 13. That's great."

The 2015 renewal of the Trials also had



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

The 74th edition of the Aiken Trials is scheduled for Saturday. There will be six races.

### Want to go?

**WHAT:** The 74th running of the Aiken Trials  
**WHEN:** Gates open at 10 a.m. Saturday. The first race will be at 2 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Aiken Training Track, 538 Two

Notch Road S.E.  
**COST:** \$10 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased at [aiken-trials.com](http://aiken-trials.com)  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Visit [aiken-trials.com](http://aiken-trials.com)

Please see TRIALS, Page 11A

### AREA DEATHS

Allison "Al" H. Tyler Sr., Wagener  
Betty Taylor Ramsey Seigler, Aiken

Justee Walker, Trenton  
Mildred Hall Courtney, Aiken  
Robin Chavous Bodrick, Huntsville, Alabama

Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER



## White House recognizes Aiken native

BY ROB NOVIT  
rnovit@aikenstandard.com

Now a Harvard University freshman, Aiken native David Stoner and his five teammates were thrilled last summer after they captured the International Math Olympiad, or IMO, competition in Thailand last July – the first U.S. victory in more than 20 years.

On Monday, DJ Patil – the chief data scientist and White House resident mathematician – honored the young men for their accomplishment.

"It was really incredible to see so many agencies that are dedicated to promoting math at the high



MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA PHOTO

Aiken native David Stoner, far right, is joined at the White House by his math teammates – recognized for their victory at the International Mathematical Olympiad in Thailand last July. From left are Michael Kural, Yang Liu, Allen Liu, Bryan Abawia and Shuang Narayanan.

appropriate time to recognize such exceptional young people. They will be among the next national leaders in the areas of science, technology and math.

"The U.S. IMO team represents the phenomenal depth of mathematical talent we have in the United States, and we want more to follow in their footsteps," said Patil.

At the international contest, Stoner also earned a gold medal – finishing individually in a tie for fifth place. More than 100 teams participated. After finishing second and third in recent years, the Americans defeated powerhouse China by four points.

Stoner missed the opportunity to

## SLED closes case of man shot, killed by officers

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU  
tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com

Just over four months ago, an Aiken County man was killed in an officer-involved shooting at his Pine Drive home, and the case is now closed after the three deputies involved were found clear of any wrongdoing.

SLED spokesman Thom Berry said Monday the case involving 57-year-old Brian Gavin was closed Feb. 23, after no criminal charges were filed against Sgt. Darryl Kostyk, Dep. Daniel Byrd and Dep. Nicholas Lott, all with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office.

Second Judicial Circuit Solicitor Strom Thurmond released an announcement Feb. 16 stating he reviewed all the information surrounding the Gavin case and found all three deputies free of any criminal wrongdoing.

Law enforcement was called to Gavin's 1304 Pine Drive home, off Vause Road, at least twice on Nov. 11, 2015, in response to a domestic call.

Gunfire was then heard coming from the residence, and upon entering the home, deputies found Gavin allegedly brandishing a firearm and pointing it at his wife Tawney, the report said.

Deputies arrived on the scene and found Gavin with a laceration across his right hand, which he claimed was from punching a window, according to an incident report provided by the Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded to the home twice, about 20 minutes apart, and after leaving the second time, deputies stayed in the area, according to the report.

Deputies stayed in the area because they "felt something wasn't right," said Capt. Nick Galloway with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office.

Gunfire was then heard coming from the residence, and upon entering the home,

deputies found Gavin allegedly brandishing a firearm and pointing it at his wife Tawney, the report said.

Deputies gave Gavin orders to drop his weapon, but he refused; deputies were then forced to deploy their weapons, according to the report.

Gavin died of blood loss caused by multiple gunshot wounds fired by the deputies responding to the call, according to the Aiken County Coroner's Office.

The Aiken Standard filed a public information request with SLED to view all dashcam footage from the night of the shooting incident, in addition to all 911 calls.

On two 911 calls, Tawney can be heard telling a 911

Please see SLED, Page 11A





**SPORTS:** USC women land No. 1 regional seed in NAAs, 1B

# INDEX-JOURNAL

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2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

## ■ ELECTIONS

### It's time to file

Registration  
set to open for  
local, state races

From staff reports

State legislators and county commissioners hold the purse strings to how taxpayer dollars are spent. Sheriffs decide the face of county law enforcement. Coroners and their offices are the arbiters when questions arise as to how someone dies. Clerks of court are charged with keeping the court system moving while keeping up with thousands of pages of documents. Solicitors oversee how those accused of crimes are prosecuted.

These elected officials shape the day-to-day actions of government and, as they are all ultimately responsible to the voters, must reapply for their positions to stay in office.

For incumbents and their challengers, filing for these positions runs from noon Wednesday through noon March 31.

All countywide office holders — in Greenwood, Sheriff Tony Davis, Coroner Sonny Cox and Clerk of Court Angie Woodhurst — are up for re-election this year, as are solicitors, including David Stumbo with the Eighth Circuit, and four Greenwood County commissioners: Chuck Moates in District 4, Steve Brown in District 5, Robbie Templeton in District 6 and Bob Fisher in District 7.

See **FILE**, page 4A

### Race barrels toward decisive primary day

By JULIE PACE  
and KATHLEEN RONAYNE  
Associated Press

LANOVERTON, Ohio — The tumultuous presidential primary season barreled toward a potentially decisive day for both Republicans and Democrats, with enough delegates up for grabs Tuesday to turn Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton from front-runners to like-

## ALLERGY SEASON IS ... ACHOOOOO!



STAFF ILLUSTRATION BY BOB SIMMONDS

## ... HERE

Doctor: Pollen season  
likely to last longer this year

By ARIEL GILREATH  
agilreath@indexjournal.com

The first flower buds  
have begun to  
bloom in Eastern

the rain came I started seeing  
cedar trees pollinating probably  
three weeks ago, which is a little  
bit earlier than my observa-  
tions in past years," Gottlieb









## HAIL, HEAVY RAINS POUND AREA

UPSTATE, C1



## USC A NO. 1 SEED IN WOMEN'S TOURNEY

SPORTS, B1

# Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Tuesday, March 15, 2016



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 78°/60° 80°/53° 70°/48°  
 Complete forecast, B6



CAMPAIGN 2016 PRIMARIES

# MARCH MADNESS

Race barrels toward potentially decisive day

By Julie Pace  
and Kathleen Ronayne  
The Associated Press

HANOVERTON, Ohio — The tumultuous presidential primary season barreled toward a potentially decisive day for both Republicans and Democrats, with enough delegates up for grabs Tuesday to turn

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton from front-runners to likely nominees.

The biggest prizes are Florida and Ohio, states with a long history of making or breaking White House aspirations. Missouri, Illinois, and North Carolina also offer a crucial cache of delegates that could help Trump and Clinton pull

further away from their rivals.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio hoped the two big states would give them a boost instead. Kasich seemed to have a better chance at that than Rubio.

The contests come at a remarkable moment in the presidential race for Republicans. Animosity toward Trump has risen to the point where he can rarely get through an event without being interrupted by

protesters. The front-runner is also under scrutiny for appearing to encourage his supporters to physically confront those protesters, deepening divisions within the Republican Party.

In a lightly veiled jab at Trump, Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin said candidates "need to take responsibility for the environment at their events."

SEE CAMPAIGN, A3

## SPORTS

### Pioneers eliminated

A breakaway dunk to tie the game in the final seconds bounced off the rim Monday night and Spartanburg Methodist suffered a heartbreaking defeat, 77-73, in the first round of the NJCAA tournament at the Hutchinson (Kan.) Sports Arena. **B1**

## UPSTATE



### Remembering a classmate

For the eighth time this academic year, University of South Carolina Upstate students and faculty had to come together after the death of a student. **C1**

### Moving forward

The city of Spartanburg is moving forward with relocating several of its departments from the former Mary H. Wright Elementary School. **C1**



### Grab a cheesesteak

A new restaurant has opened in Boiling Springs. Earnest Nash, **B1**

WOODRUFF

# Two charged after officer shot during drug raid

Police chief hopes suspects will stay behind bars

By Daniel J. Gross  
daniel.gross@shj.com

A police officer is wounded and two people are in custody after a shot rang out during a drug raid in Woodruff Monday morning.

Sgt. Darrell Dawkins, a veteran officer with the Woodruff Police Department, was first through the door during the search for suspected cocaine when he took a bullet to the upper left arm.

A suspect surrendered after the shot was fired, and a child found inside the home was deemed safe.

The shooting has left Woodruff's police chief hoping the case will weigh heavily on the court system when dealing with repeat violent offenders. Dawkins is recovering from the shooting and eager to get back to work. "I'm going to be OK," he



A police officer in Woodruff was shot while responding to a call early Monday. The shooting occurred on Harrison Street around 6:24 a.m., according to Spartanburg County dispatchers. PHOTOS BY ALEX HICKS JR./ALEX.HICKS@SHJ.COM

"I'm going to be OK. God's still got things for me to do."







# the Sumter ITEM

Trump turns eyes toward pivotal primaries today

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016 | Serving South Carolina since October 15, 1894

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**A4**

## DOT delays S.C. 441 resurfacing

BY ADRIENNE SARVIS  
adrienne@theitem.com

Sumter's South Carolina Department of Transportation office's plan to postpone the resurfacing of S.C. 441 until summer has some of the residents and business owners in the area dissatisfied.

Tom Carter, owner of Tom and Mary's Cleaners, said he and others in the area received a notice from S.C. DOT about the road resurfacing last year.

The contract for the project was awarded in October, but nothing has happened, he said.

Carter said the construction signs notifying those in the area about the project are still up.

He recently called the local DOT office and was told that the project is now scheduled to start in June or July.

The road needed to be paved 10 years ago, Carter said.

"It's like a washboard when you drive on it," he said.

Carter said the roads behind Shaw do not seem to get enough attention.

He said the road used to be paved on a regular basis years ago.

Carter also wondered why DOT is adding traffic circles

across Sumter instead of focusing on resurfacing damaged roads first.

DOT resident construction engineer Jeffrey Wilkes said the resurfacing project on S.C. 441 was delayed because of the 1,000-year flood and

SEE DELAY, PAGE A6

## Downtown Catholic church gets facelift



Roofers from Square-It-Up Roofing of Sumter prepare the roof of St. Anne Catholic Church in downtown Sumter for new shingles on Monday. The crew plans to replace the slate tile on the two steeples later this week.

PHOTOS BY RICK CARPENTER / THE SUMTER ITEM

## Company replacing roof, 100-year-old steeple tiles

BY RICK CARPENTER  
rick@theitem.com

Roofers tethered to safety belts hung from the top of St. Anne Catholic Church on Monday as they maneuvered themselves across the steep pitch to first tear off old shingles, then lay the base of a new roof.

After tearing off the old shingles, they replaced rotten wood, laid a layer of weather sealant, then planned to put new shingles over the sealant.

That's all in a day's work

for Harold McLean's crew of Square-It-Up Roofing of Sumter, who was overseeing the work. With one eye on the weather and the other on the crew, McLean estimates the crew will finish the job by Thursday.

The crew will perform an even trickier maneuver later this week when it removes slate tiles from two steeples. Those slate tiles have been on the church since it was built 106 years ago, said Herman Standiford, a volunteer maintenance worker for the church.

Standiford, who retired from the Air Force in 1977 after relocating to Shaw Air Force Base from Hawaii, opened an air conditioning and heating business before

retiring from that second career in 2003. He has been donating his services to the church as a maintenance volunteer ever since. He estimated the current roof was previously replaced 25 to 30 years ago. At that time, the entire roof had been slate tiles.

When the church replaced the tiles with more conventional shingles, Standiford said the church didn't realize the tiles had value and let people walk away with them.

This year, when the tiles are removed from the steeples, he said the church plans to sell them.

The roofing company will replace the distinctive landmark slate tile on the steeples with conventional shingles like the rest of the roof.



Workers prepare the roof for a new layer of shingles by pulling old nails out and placing a weather sealant over the wood.

## Crestwood choir will perform in New York

BY KONSTANTIN VENGERSKY  
konstantin@theitem.com

Lavonte Glisson, a Crestwood High School senior and member of the school's choir, is the nephew of the late Bill Pinkney, a Daltell native, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and a founding member of The Drifters, a doo-wop and R&B/soul vocal group.

On May 28, Glisson will be one of 28 members of Crestwood's choir to perform on one of the world's most famous stages when they sing at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Glisson said.

Glisson is a three-time All-State member of the choir and has aspirations of producing his own record.

Crestwood will be one of three schools from South Carolina performing at the event.

Students from the school's advanced chorus class will perform a 40-minute piece, called "Requiem," by French composer Gabriel Faure. The school will sing the piece alongside a professional orchestra and 120 singers.

"We're really excited for this opportunity for our students," said Deborah Horton, director of choral activities at the school.

The choir will perform under guest conductor Sonja Sepulveda, director of choral activities and professor of music theory at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Sepulveda is a former choral activities director at Sumter High School and sang with the Carnegie



GLISSON

SEE CARNEGIE HALL, PAGE A6







**SPORTS** For a complete roundup of the women's NCAA Tournament see, **Page 1B**

# Morning News

TUESDAY MARCH 15, 2016

The Voice of the Pee Dee

**TODAY'S  
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**Florence  
City Council**

## Racial tensions dominate meeting

Robinson's claim that city has a vendetta against blacks refuted

BY JOSHUA LLOYD  
Morning News  
jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — At the March Florence City Council meeting on Monday, tensions ran high after Councilman Ed Robinson again made multiple claims of racism by the city — including accusations against two black council members.

The contention started after Robinson said his plans often are shut down because the city has a vendetta against the black community and his voice. He referred to an amendment he tried to add to last month's agenda that was shot down by "the two other people on this council who look like me."

Teresa Meyers-Ervin and Octavia Williams-Blake, the two black councilwomen Robinson referred to, rebuked the statements and said Robinson only tells "half-truths" that fit his agenda.

Robinson's squashed proposal would have reversed the city's decision to buy a building for Pee Dee Health Start, an organization devoted to enhancing healthier birth

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

**FMU WOMEN 72, AUGUSTA 65**

## It's on to the Elite Eight



Francis Marion University women's basketball coach Jeri Porter holds up the net after the Patriots defeated Augusta 72-65 on Monday in the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional final in Gaffney. The Patriots will play March 22-23 in the D-II Elite Eight in Sioux Falls, S.D.

## Patriots hang on to win NCAA Tournament regional

GAFFNEY

The Francis Marion women's basketball team is on its way to the Elite Eight for the first time since 1998. With sophomore Briana Burgins and senior Alaysia Watts leading the way, the Patriots defeated Augusta 72-65 Monday in the women's NCAA Division II Southeast Regional final. Watts scored 14 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, while Burgins, the regional Most Outstanding Player, had 14 points and 13 rebounds. FMU held on after a 16-point lead shrank to two points late in the game. The Patriots will play in the Elite Eight on March 22 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, against either Alaska-Anchorage or U.C. San Diego, which played late Monday night. See story in **Sports**, Page 1B.

— Mark Haselden

**Driver Suspension Eligibility Week**

## SCDMV offers amnesty to suspended drivers

Qualifying drivers can apply for pardon

BY JESSICA IMBIMBO  
Morning News  
jimimbob@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles is holding its annual Driver Suspension Eligibility Week from now until Friday at every office in the state, allowing drivers with suspended licenses to seek amnesty for their previous crimes.

During Driver Suspension Eligibility Week, certain drivers who have a suspended license can ap-

### What types of suspension qualify?

The program will assist the following types of suspended drivers:

- Underage drivers suspended for excessive points
- Those suspended for operating an unlicensed taxi or vehicle
- Drivers suspended for operating an uninsured vehicle that they did not own
- Those suspended for operating or allowing operation of an

**Darlington**



Juan Ramirez of Kirven Construction works Monday at the site of a new Walmart in Darlington, which is close to an opening date.

## Walmart construction has overcome wet weather

DARLINGTON

Darlingtonians soon will have a new Walmart.

Beset by wet weather, Aiken-based general contractor Gillam & Associates was working on Monday to get the 16.5 acre site ready.

Superintendent Bill Matthews said members of construction crews have had 100 days of rain since they broke ground last July.

"It's been extremely challenging," Matthews said, but he noted that





## LOCAL

SC driver amnesty week gives some with infractions a second chance 3A



## SPORTS

Friends, students remember longtime teaching pro Tim Moss 1B



TUESDAY MARCH 15 2016

75¢

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# THE ISLAND PACKET

## BEAUFORT COUNTY

## Classes for struggling readers required

District anticipates retaining about 2,000 students this summer who are not reading on grade level

The first- through fifth-graders must attend school 18 extra days at end of this school year

Program is preparation for state law going into effect in 2017-18

BY REBECCA LURVE  
rlurve@islandpacket.com

Elementary school students struggling to read will receive an extra month of instruction this summer under a new Beaufort County School District requirement.

About 2,000 district students in first through fifth grades are expected to need the free specialized classes, which will be required for students who score in the bottom 25 percent on standardized reading tests. The 18 instructional days will be held from 8:20 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays from June 1 through June 30, with bus transportation, breakfast and lunch provided by the district.

The \$1.46 million program is being paid for with state money and has not forced the district to cut any other programs or services, said district spokesman Jim Foster.

• About \$1.1 million comes from at least four state sources, including money for reading instruction, early-grades instruction, prekindergarten and unused school incentives for students at risk of failing.

• Another \$330,000 was sent to the district to help it prepare for the implementation of a state law that will go into effect at the start of the 2017-18 school year.

The program is meant to bring as many students up to speed as possible before the law goes into effect. The new statute will require S.C. third-graders who are not proficient in reading to be held back.

"The district's program is a proactive way of improving kids' reading skills so that the state's new retention rules won't affect them" in 2017-18 and beyond, Foster said.

The district already offers



CHUCK BURTON AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gives a thumbs up on Monday at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

## Trump eyes pivotal primaries

Today's critical contest is winner-take-all Ohio, Kasich's home state

Republican primaries also in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Florida

BY BILL BARROW AND KATHLEEN RONAINE  
Associated Press

## HANOVERTON, OHIO

GOP front-runner Donald Trump tried to prove over the weekend that no perceived misstep can derail his march to the Republican presidential nomination.

Trump enjoyed a relatively controversy-free multi-state tour Sunday ahead of primaries that could determine whether he wins the GOP nomination with

all contest in Ohio, where the real estate mogul and the popular governor, John Kasich, have intensified their focus on one another — Trump calling his rival "a baby" and Kasich suggesting Trump and the violence at some of his rallies represent a "dark side" of American society.

Besides Ohio, candidates are readying their closing arguments in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina and Florida, with the total number of delegates at stake Tuesday accounting for more than a quarter of the 1,237 needed to win the nomination.

majority, while Florida Sen. Marco Rubio tries merely to remain relevant, hoping his home-state voters defy the polls and give him justification to extend his candidacy.

Trump tried Sunday to shift attention away from the intense criticism that followed harrowing scenes Friday of a melee in Chicago, where he canceled a scheduled rally amid a near-riot among his supporters, protesters and authorities.

"If we can win Ohio, we're going to run the table, folks," Trump boasted in West Chester, Ohio, on Sunday, one of three events he held with only occasional interruptions from protesters.

None of those interruptions led to violence, a stark turn from the scenes in Chicago and a

"We're not provoking. We want peace. ... We don't want trouble," Trump told a crowd in Bloomington, Ill.

Kasich wasn't buying it, reversing his months-long practice of avoiding the topic of Trump.

Speaking with The Associated Press aboard his campaign bus between stops in Ohio, Kasich read a list of Trump quotes compiled by an aide. They included Trump's comments that his audiences should "hit back" a little more and a statement that he'd like to "punch" a protester "in the face."

Trump has often declared the country must "toughen up," and suggested one man who was physically assaulted at a November rally deserved the treatment.

He confirmed earlier Sunday that he was considering assisting a North Carolina man charged with assault after video captured him sucker-punching a protester at a March 9 rally in Fayetteville, N.C.

Said Kasich: "It's really cause for pause."

Trump answered this weekend by casting Kasich as weak and deliberately mispronounced his rival's Czech surname.

"He's not the right guy to be president. He's not tough enough, he's not strong enough."





# THE LINK

Connecting Chesterfield County, One Week At A Time

www.thelinkpaper.com

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

75¢

The Link's Litter Update

## It Doesn't Have to be this Way!

JANE PIGG  
Publisher - The Link

Since starting The Link's our anti-litter campaign, everyone seems to be noticing trash, both here at home and away.

Last week, I was in Newark, Delaware, with my nephew, Jeffrey, on a graduate school recruitment visit. Looking around, as we do any time we visit a new town, the cleanliness was amazing.

We rode around 30 minutes before we saw the first piece of trash on a sidewalk! That was the only piece of trash we saw that evening. The next day, I only saw five separate pieces of trash. On the way

### State penalties for littering

The minimum fine is \$200 plus court assessments. \*  
The Maximum fine is \$1,000 plus court assessments. \*  
Guilty convictions can lead to jail time between 30 days to one year. The court will also impose community service litter clean-up hours.

\*\$200 is the minimum fine in South Carolina for littering any amount less than 15 pounds, plus court costs and a minimum of 15 hours litter gathering labor. For any amount of litter over 15 pounds and less than 500 pounds, there is a \$200-\$500 fine, mandatory community service, and a possible prison sentence not to exceed 90 days.

back to the airport, we saw two more pieces. We saw eight pieces of trash in the Newark city limits ... only eight!

Chesterfield County doesn't have to be so trashed. It starts with education of our young children. If parents litter, the kids will litter. Recently there

has been an increased effort to catch and charge persons who litter our landscape.

Reid Kennedy moved to Chesterfield County in 1988 and lived here 17 years before he moved away. He missed the area so much, he moved back in 2009. He picks up trash

every week.

"When I first came here in 1988, the first thing I noticed was the trashiness everywhere. Then it got better, and recently it's just gotten out of control. I have to pick up so much more than I used to. Why can't people just stop throwing their garbage out their car windows?" asked Kennedy.

We need your help. Talk about the trash situation at work, school and home. When you see littering, call Jim McGonigal, Chesterfield County's litter control officer, at (843) 623-3583. He and his staff will investigate the situation and even take to court the worst offenders.



Above, Reid Kennedy picks up trash.

Jane Pigg/Publisher

## Taco Bell now open

JANE PIGG  
Publisher - The Link

Taco Bell on Van Lingle Mungo Boulevard in Pageland opened March 7 to overflowing customers.

"We're very happy to be open in Pageland, a town that we're very familiar with because we have KFC here. So far, it's been a very good success. About a month from now, we'll be holding our grand opening. We wanted a chance for the residents of Pageland to get to know us and for us to know them. We're very busy right now and ask for everyone's patience as we fill their orders," said Ashley Page, director of operations.

"I'm so happy to be open in Pageland. My goal is to succeed and be the friendliest company in Pageland," said General Manager Lakela McBride.

Taco Bell is open seven days a week.



Employee Shanice Carelock and General Manager Lakela McBride.

Jane Pigg/Publisher

## Nicholson no longer with Town of Pageland

REBECCA ROLLINS  
Staff Reporter

Town of Pageland's former bookkeeper, Sharon Nicholson, is no longer an employee of the town, according to Pageland Town Administrator Cecil Kimrey. "I can only say that she is no longer employed with the town," said Kimrey.

Nicholson was charged Nov. 5, 2015, with nine counts of receiving stolen goods but was released on personal recognizance.

The charges stemmed from an investigation into Nicholson's husband, Brent Nicholson.

On Oct. 23, 2015, Brent

was charged with receiving stolen goods valued at more than \$10,000, including thousands of guns, weapons, ATVs and other items.

The case ended up being the largest gun seizure South Carolina has ever seen. The items seized were located at the Nicholsons' home, Brent Nicholson's father's home, and at the family liquor store business.

Just counting the stolen firearms, the count surpassed 10,000 guns, ATVs, a wealth of ammunition,

seized in the October raid.

Nicholson was placed on paid administrative leave Nov. 6 following her charge the day before. Over a month later, Nicholson was assigned to Pageland's Parks and Recreation Department where her duties included assisting Parks and Recreation Director Andre Singleton.

Nicholson has worked for the town of Pageland for over 20 years. No details were released on the nature of her departure from the town. If convicted, she could face up to five years' imprisonment on each of the nine counts of receiving stolen goods, if the value of the



Nicholson



Contributed

Dorothy Teal and John C. "Son" Teal flank S.C. Rep. Richie Yow as Yow shows them the resolution the S.C. House passed to honor Teal.

## 'Son' Teal honored by S.C. House

JOAN YATES  
Editor - The Link

A resolution "to honor and commend John C. 'Son' Teal of Cheraw for more than half a century of service and friendship to the people of Chesterfield County" was passed by the S.C. House of Representatives last week.

The resolution concludes

by saying, "(In) his dedication and love to the community for more than 55 years, Son Teal has been not only a business leader but also a friend to all. He is a Chesterfield County legend and institution."

S.C. Rep. Richie Yow sponsored the resolution, and Cheraw Mayor Andy Ingram provided much of the information describing

Teal's history and contributions to the community.

"I'm proud to have a part in recognizing Mr. Son Teal, Mr. Teal has served Cheraw citizens in many ways, and this is a small way we can thank him," said Ingram.

A native of Cheraw, Teal married Dorothy Lewis in 1957, and they have three

See Teal, 3

## Positive changes in Pageland

REBECCA ROLLINS  
Staff Reporter

Since Sheriff Jay Brooks accepted the position as Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the Pageland Police Department earlier this month, positive changes have steadily been rolling out for the town.

Last Monday, Brooks met with Town Administrator Cecil Kimrey and Chief Larry Brown upon his reinstatement to get a game plan together and to start taking steps to fill voids within the police department.

weekend went really well and we made it through well."

Brooks says the first order of business was cleaning the police department from top to bottom. Old, outdated materials were purged, and Brooks plans on making everything digital in house. Documents, schedules and correspondence will be much easier on officers, and he's ordering smart phones for the department. The majority of officers who left pending Brown's return are back on duty, and Brooks says things are running

road officers that have come back. We're in a whole lot better shape than we were," said Brooks.

Brooks temporarily shut down the Pageland Police Department's jail due to shortcomings in training and paperwork, as well as the lack of essential equipment. Brooks says those arrested will be going to the county jail until he feels the town jail could pass a state inspection. Currently, the jail poses a risk for a huge liability for the town, and Brooks is making sure that when it re-opens, proper training and



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