

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>  
To:  
Date: 1/15/2014 10:21:42 AM  
Subject: SC Front Pages – Wednesday, January 15, 2014

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**SC Front Pages – Wednesday, January 15, 2014**



## INSIDE COLLECT CALL

Companies wary on NSA phone plan

METRO, 1B  
\$1M gift to  
aid Furman  
institute

# The Greenville News

A GANNETT COMPANY

WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 15, 2014  
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

**SPORTS** Clemson's Blossomgame looking for another big night against Virginia Tech, 1c

FINAL EDITION

Ongoing sales strength bodes well for economy, experts say



Tobin and Amanda Wolverton, who recently purchased a new home in Hollingsworth Park, are among those buyers fueling strong home sales in the Greater Greenville area. PATRICK COLLARD/STAFF

# HOMEBUYERS SOLD ON GREENVILLE

## BY THE NUMBERS

**9,160**  
Number of homes  
sold in 2013

**10,058**  
Number of homes  
sold in 2007

**\$156K**  
Median home  
price in 2013

**\$150K**  
Median home  
price in 2012

**93**  
Average days on  
the market in 2013

**105**  
Average days on  
the market in 2012

By Angelia Davis  
Staff writer  
davis@greenvilleonline.com

**H**ome sales in the Greenville metropolitan area were higher last year than in the past six years, which experts see as evidence that the economy is getting on stronger footing.

New figures from the Greater Greenville Association of Realtors (GGAR) show that 9,160 residential units were sold last year. That's the highest since 2007, when 10,058 units were sold and the economy began its downward turn.

The year before, in 2006, sales in the metro area reached a record high with 10,388 units sold. By 2008, when the recession took hold, the number of sales had dipped to 8,021 and bottomed out in 2011 with 6,395 residences sold.

See HOMES, Page 4A

## State urged to drop appeal

Advocates: Inmate  
care should be focus

By Tim Smith

Staff writer  
tsmith@greenvilleonline.com

COLUMBIA — A Greenville mental health advocate has collected more than 100 signatures from lawmakers, County Council members, mental health officials and others asking that the state drop its appeal of a judge's order last week that the prison system develop a plan to improve its treatment of inmates who have serious mental illness.

Paton Blough of Greenville, a mental health advocate who founded the website rehinge.com, said he believes the state can only effectively focus on improving its care of the mentally ill in prison when it stops fighting Judge Michael Baxley's ruling.

Dr. James Hayes of Greenville, president of the state board for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, signed the petition and also said the state should drop the appeal.

"If we appeal this, it will be one more reason not to do some meaningful reform," he told *The Greenville News*.

"It's critically important that our prisoners with mental illness get the proper care. We would treat our animals in shelters better than prisoners with mental illness have been treated in the past."

Hayes said the state has improved but the judge's recommendations are "reasonable and logical."

"I think it would be imperative for the state not to waste more money and time," he said. "The money spent on attorneys could be spent on psychologists and other resources for our prison system."

Baxley last week issued a 45-page ruling in response to a 2005 lawsuit that found the prison system has repeatedly violated the rights of mentally ill inmates, who in some cases lost their lives. He gave the prison system six months to develop a detailed plan of improvements.

See APPEAL, Page 4A







**Texans owner has his eye on Clowney**  
SPORTS, C1

**Rosy outlook for area home sales in 2014**  
BUSINESS, B6



# The Post and Courier

THE SOUTH'S OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER • FOUNDED 1803

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2014

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

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## Why was baby left by roadside?

Hunt is on for kidnappers after girl found safe in Berkeley

BY DAVE MUNDAY  
dmondav@postandcourier.com

What kind of person would dump a baby girl alongside a highway and drive off?

That's the question investigators are trying to answer after the baby was found on a roadside in rural Berkeley County late Tuesday afternoon. The

infant was abducted from a house just outside the Holly Hill town limits.

"You start asking what kind of sick individual would steal a 4-month-old and then leave her by the side of the road," Holly Hill Police Lt. Joshua Dettler said.

He was the first officer on the scene when the family called to report that their daughter had been taken from a

house on Catamount Road. The father told Dettler that four men had come into the house, assaulted him and left with his daughter.

"The dad was standing outside, very distraught," Dettler said. "He said, 'They got my baby.'"

The father said the kidnappers drove

Please see **BABY**, Page A6



## Harrell fires back

House speaker: Accusations a 'blatant smear campaign'



S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell speaks with reporters Tuesday at the Statehouse in response to an announcement that the state's attorney general is referring an ethics investigation into Harrell's conduct to a statewide grand jury.

BY JEREMY BORDEN  
and CYNTHIA ROLDAN  
jborden@postandcourier.com  
croltan@postandcourier.com

COLUMBIA — House Speaker Bobby Harrell fired back Tuesday at the man who has prolonged and widened the investigation into whether the powerful long-time leader abused his position for personal gain.

Harrell, R-Charleston, told re-

porters an hour before the beginning of the 2014 legislative session that Attorney General Alan Wilson's noncomment Monday that a grand jury would consider a long-running ethics complaint against him should not have been made and was politically motivated.

He said the investigation — announced the day before the session — shows that election-year politics had trumped a fair review.

Wilson, also a Republican, notified the media before calling his attorney, which Wilson's office has denied.

"The facts still are that I have not broken the law," Harrell said. He called the charges against him a "blatant smear campaign" and also called on Wilson's office to release a State Law Enforcement Division report on the matter.

Please see **HARRELL**, Page A7

### Online

**POLL:** Do you think the timing of Attorney General Alan Wilson's announcement referring the ethics complaint about House Speaker Bobby Harrell to a grand jury was politically motivated? Find this story at [postandcourier.com/south-to-vote](http://postandcourier.com/south-to-vote).

**VIDEO:** To see footage from Harrell's press conference, go to [postandcourier.com/videos](http://postandcourier.com/videos).

## Flood policy relief in works

Some would avoid huge premium hikes

BY ANDREW TAYLOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeowners worried that new federal flood maps will send their flood insurance premiums skyrocketing would get some short-term relief under a provision tucked into a massive government-wide funding bill.

But other changes to the federal flood insurance program, including higher premiums on businesses, vacation homes and frequently flooded properties, will remain in place, as well as a new rule blocking homeowners from passing insurance subsidies on to the people who buy their homes.

The provision is authored by Louisiana lawmakers and political rivals — Democrat Sen. Mary Landrieu and GOP Rep. Bill Cassidy — and comes as the Senate is poised to debate much broader relief to homeowners facing higher premiums. Cassidy is running for the GOP nod to take on Landrieu this year.

The move comes as the government is beginning to implement a significant overhaul of the much-criticized program. That overhaul passed in 2012 with sweeping support from both liberals and tea party conservatives but has caused a panic in places like Staten Island, N.Y., and the New Jersey coast and in flood-prone areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida, where higher rates threaten to push some people out of their homes.

Please see **FLOOD**, Page A8

### Inside

Massive budget bill aims to show Congress' mettle. **A9**

## Fun time off for kids or major headache for parents?

Timing of 5-day break in Charleston County draws fire

BY DIETTE COURAGEOUS CASEY  
dcourag@postandcourier.com

Charleston County students might be looking forward to a five-day break starting Thursday, but the same can't be said

of some of their parents. Some feel aggravated with the timing of the days off, which come less than two weeks after students had a 17-day winter vacation. For some, it's a scramble and stress to make child care ar-

rangements. Others worry about the schedule disruption to their children, who just were getting back into their school routine. "If you have kids 6 and under ... it throws them off," said Geoff Richardson, a parent of a

West Ashley kindergartner and second-grader. "This is probably doing worse harm to their education than anything. It's unfortunate, and ... I'm sure there is no perfect world. It doesn't make it any easier for all the parents out there."

The five-day break includes

a teacher work day, a school-based teacher training day, and the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, as well as a regular two-day weekend. District officials said they understood parents' concerns, but the school calendar

### Poll

Will Charleston County School District's five-day break inconvenience you? Find this story at [postandcourier.com/to-vote](http://postandcourier.com/to-vote).

Please see **BREAK**, Page A6



Partly sunny  
High 61, Low 32  
Complete 5-day  
forecast **B8**

Bridge ..... D7  
Business ..... B6  
Classified ..... C1  
Comics ..... B6.7

Crosswords ..... B6.15  
Editorials ..... A4  
Food ..... F1  
Homes ..... B4

Obituaries ..... B4  
The South ..... B1  
Sports ..... C1  
Travel ..... B5

**Charleston Deals**

**Calder's Buffalo Pub**  
Pay \$10 to spend \$20  
or pay \$20 to spend \$40  
See **A2**





**EARLY EXITS:** SEC teams losing the most as underclassmen leave, **C1****WORLD BEER FESTIVAL****Brewers to share craft in Columbia**

Sixth annual festival featuring 200 labels will tap into South Carolina's growing industry, interest

**INSIDE**

From  
bitters to  
bocks,  
your guide  
to craft  
brews,  
**Page D1**

By **JEFF WILKINSON**  
jwilkinson@thestate.com

South Carolina craft breweries will be making a big splash during Saturday's sixth annual World Beer Festival in Columbia.

For the first time, the state's growing craft industry will have heavy representation at the festival, which features 75 breweries and about 200 labels from as far away as Czechoslovakia.

Organizer Chris Rice, vice president of All About Beer

magazine, which sponsors the one-day beer fest, said that 13 of the state's 15 breweries will be represented.

"It's a whole section," he said, from the magazine's offices in Durham, N.C. "The number of breweries in South Carolina is growing very quickly, and they are becoming a very important piece in the U.S. craft brew scene. We are very excited to have them at the festival."

Columbia's Conquest

SEE BEER PAGE A6



GERRY MELLENDEZ/GAMELLENDEZ@THESTATE.COM

Conquest Brewing is tapping special kegs for the upcoming World of Beer Festival.

# The State

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014 | THESTATE.COM

"Any time in governance you have a cloud over the individual or the institution, it presents problems."

Senate President Pro Tem John Courson



GERRY MELLENDEZ/GAMELLENDEZ@THESTATE.COM

S.C. House Speaker Bobby Harrell addresses the media Tuesday about the SLED report.

## Harrell lashes out at 'smear campaign'

House speaker says legislative business will go on despite ethics probe by state grand jury

By **JAMIE SELF**  
jsself@thestate.com

House Speaker Bobby Harrell said Tuesday that legislative business will go on as usual, after the Charleston Republican — probably the most powerful

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson released that news Monday — the day before the legislative session began — in a move that Harrell told reporters Tuesday was "intended to inflict political damage" on him and amounted to a "smear

**ONLINE**

See a video of Speaker Harrell's Tuesday press conference at [thestate.com](http://thestate.com).

**INSIDE**

Protesters greet returning legislators. **B1**

Haley, Sheheen address

**DOGS IN COLUMBIA**

## City mulls high permit fees for pit bulls

Intent is to control growth of aggressive dogs

By **JOHN MONK**  
jmonk@thestate.com

Several Columbia City Council members said Tuesday they want to explore making it tougher for people to own pit bulls within the city limits.

The goal would be not to ban pit bulls, but to control their growth and handling by some owners who use the breed for fights or other ways that disturb neighborhoods, city officials said.

"You see 10-year-olds walking pit bulls, and they can't control them," council member Sam Da-

"Anytime you walk the street with a dog and the chain is big, that tells you something," Davis said. "They're dangerous. They fight at night — we just can't catch them."

Council member Cameron Runyan said he already has explored how other cities control the populations of dogs known as aggressive.

"A 'bully breed' ordinance would not prevent someone from owning such a dog, but it would tie a pretty significant — ex-

SEE DOGS PAGE A6







# New location to open in Aiken

Find out where chicken chain will pop up next | 4A



## Aiken Standard

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1867

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2014

AIKENSTANDARD.COM

Vol. 148, No. 15 Aiken, S.C. ★★ 75¢

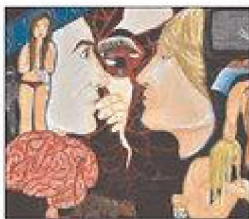
### INSIDE TODAY



Local business awnings collapse in Wagener  
Local News, 2A



Ridge Spring girls eke out win over Williston-Elko  
Sports, 1B



High-schoolers inspired by George Orwell's '1984'  
Local News, 2A



New chef means changes for Davor's  
Living on the Go, 1C

### AREA DEATHS

**Fannie Mae Christie**, Trenton  
**Josephine Boyce McBroom**, Aiken  
**Robert "Mr. Bob" J. Banks**, Graniteville  
**Ronald "Snuffy" Odell Eubanks**, Aiken  
Deaths and Funerals, 6A

### WEATHER

# SRS poised to receive full funding of \$1.1B

BY DERREK ASBERRY  
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

The Savannah River Site could potentially receive \$1.1 billion in full funding for the fiscal year — an increase of \$46 million from the Department of Energy's budget request — if an appropriations subcommittee in Washington, D.C., approves funding later this week. If approved, the total would be

## Site gets \$46M more than DOE request, if act passes

SRS's first full funding since the fiscal year 2012 budget, according to the Site's DOE spokesperson Jim Giusti. "It would be full funding, and that

would reset the clock for us ...," Giusti said. "We're pleased that Congress is making progress in getting us a budget."

After Congress approved and President Barack Obama signed the federal budget compromise in December, it was then passed on to appropriations committees to distribute funding. The committee that is slated to appropriate \$1.134 billion for SRS is the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Please see **FUNDS**, Page 5A

## Rescue seeks new home



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Lars Swearingen is the co-founder of L.E.A.S.H. Squad, a dog rescue organization in Graniteville that is looking for a new home. He is shown here with the pit bull Reno. Swearingen also is the group's director of operations.

BY DEDE BILES  
dbiles@aikenstandard.com

**GRANITEVILLE** — L.E.A.S.H. Squad is looking for a forever home. The land on Hester Lane that the dog rescue organization rents has been sold.

"We're at a crossroads," said Lars Swearingen, who is the group's co-founder and director of operations. "The deadline for us to be off this property is Feb. 1."

Time is running out. Swearingen thought he had a solution for L.E.A.S.H., which stands for Leading Each Animal Safely Home.

A friend had been pre-approved for a loan to buy a house and land that he was going to let Swearingen use.

"Everything was looking great," Swearingen said. "Then about a week and a half ago, the loan agent my friend had either was fired or quit. Everything got transferred to another loan agent and, when that happened, some of the paperwork got messed up."

The plan crumbled, and that left Swearingen scrambling to put something else together.



STAFF PHOTO BY DEDE BILES

Lars Swearingen plays with some of the dogs that have been rescued by L.E.A.S.H. Squad. He is the co-founder of the organization, and he also is its director of operations.

Tuesday afternoon, \$1,630 had been collected.

"We've received an additional \$3,100 from a private person, who told us, 'Here, I want to help you,'" Swearingen said.

to be just a regular rescue, we want to be a shelter and a sanctuary," Swearingen said.

The organization needs a minimum of 4 acres of land that has access to electricity and water. Swearingen

## Taylor new URS general manager

BY DERREK ASBERRY  
dasberry@aikenstandard.com

A 26-year nuclear industry veteran has been named the new general manager of URS' Global Management and Operations Services — or GMOS — business group, which is based in Aiken.

James Taylor is taking the vacant URS position, according to a recent press release.

Taylor is succeeding David Pethick, who retired from the company in December.

"James is a dynamic leader with intimate knowledge of the needs and requirements of this important market," George Nash, president of Energy and Construction, wrote in the press release. "He has a history of delivering superior results for our (Department of Energy) and (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) clients."

In his new position, Taylor will oversee the day-to-day operations, manage the group's profit and loss, strategic initiatives and business development activities and oversee administrative and operations support functions.

In addition to Taylor, URS has named Todd Wright as the executive vice president of operations for GMOS.

Wright has 35 years of leadership experience, including serving as the director of the Savannah River National Lab. His new position will include overseeing GMOS business operations and working closely with the group's strategic business



Taylor







**HIGH: 58**  
**LOW: 36**  
Weather, 6B

**\$25 for \$50 toward a fresh flower arrangement or live plant at [dealsaver.com/Beaufort](http://dealsaver.com/Beaufort)**



## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Beaufort High tops Fort Dorchester, 47-44, for the Eagles' second victory against the Patriots this season **1B**

# The Beaufort Gazette

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2014

[beaufortgazette.com](http://beaufortgazette.com)

Established in 1897 50 cents

## Man assaulted on golf course awarded \$500K

Jury awards Beaufort resident after civil trial stemming from attack at the Fripp Island Ocean Creek pro shop

By **MATT McNAB**

[mmcnab@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:mmcnab@beaufortgazette.com)  
843-706-8125

A Beaufort man assaulted on a Fripp Island golf course in 2011 was awarded \$500,000 last week in a civil trial against the man who attacked him, according to Beaufort County court records.

A jury awarded Beaufort resident

Rodney J. Allgire \$400,000 in actual damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages Jan. 8 after a civil trial in Beaufort County stemming from a Nov. 13, 2011, assault.

Conway resident Marshall C. Blanton, 44, punched Allgire twice in the face while on the stairs of the Fripp Island Ocean Creek golf course's pro shop

after an argument between the playing groups to which the men belonged, according to a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office report.

The two groups had been arguing on the course and in the pro shop before Blanton punched Allgire, whom he mistakenly believed was the one arguing with Blanton's group, the report said.

Allgire told Blanton he had not been a part of the argument after he was punched. When Blanton tried to walk away from the pro shop, Allgire asked staff to call police, the report said. Blanton told Fripp Island security personnel he later learned it was another golfer in the group he had argued with and that he had apologized to Allgire.

Allgire still wished to press charges against Blanton.

Blanton was charged with third-degree assault and battery, the report said. He pleaded no contest to the charges in January 2012, according to court records. Allgire's attorney, Jim Moss, said

Please see **GOLF** on 9A

IN S.C. HOUSE

## HOUSE SPEAKER BOBBY HARRELL FIRES BACK

ETHICS CASE AGAINST CHARLESTON REPUBLICAN HEADS FOR S.C. GRAND JURY

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A look at how the statewide grand jury operates:

- State grand jury proceedings are held in secret.
- The S.C. attorney general acts as legal counsel to the grand jury. The grand jury has broader subpoena powers than law enforcement, allowing it to compel sworn testimony and the production of documents not always brought to light by law enforcement.
- Twelve of 18 members of the grand jury would have to vote to bring an indictment.



By **JAMIE SELF** • The (Columbia) State

House Speaker Bobby Harrell said Tuesday that legislative business will go on as usual, after the Charleston Republican — arguably the most powerful man in state government — railed against news that ethics allegations against him will be heard by a state grand jury.

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson released that news Monday — the day before the legislative session began — in a move that Harrell told reporters Tuesday was “intended to inflict political damage” on him and amounted to a “smear campaign.”

Asked what motive fellow Republican Wilson would have to “inflict political damage” on him, Harrell referred reporters to Wilson's office.

“This is an ongoing criminal investigation before the state grand jury,” Wilson's spokesman, Mark Powell, responded. “It is inappropriate for us to comment.”

Please see **HARRELL** on 9A

GERRY MELENDEZ • The (Columbia) State

CIVIC MASTER PLAN

## Council gives first approval

By **ERIN MOODY**

[emoody@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:emoody@beaufortgazette.com)  
843-706-8184

In the end, it came down to two pages in a 296-page document.

Beaufort City Council approved 4 to 1 the first of two votes on the Civic Master Plan, which would guide the next century of growth. Councilman George O'Kelley Jr. voted against it.

The plan outlines development of vacant and important properties, road and transportation changes, access to water, stormwater needs, parks and areas targeted for economic development.

But before Tuesday night's council

Please see **COUNCIL** on 9A

## ARTworks hires new director

By **ERIN MOODY**

[emoody@beaufortgazette.com](mailto:emoody@beaufortgazette.com)  
843-706-8184

Laura Maxey, the new managing director at ARTworks, says art is a locally produced commodity that's often best enjoyed where it is created.

“There's a huge movement to buy locally grown food, eat at restaurants that use local ingredients, and I think that art should be looked at like that as well — as a local consumable,” she said.

Maxey started her duties Jan. 2 leading the nonprofit community art center,

Please see **ARTWORKS** on 9A

## Congress delays federal flood insurance rate hikes

By **GREG GORDON**

CONGRESS UNVEILS BILL

cus that formed last May in an effort Insurance Program, \$24 billion in the

OPEN HOUSE







## Just like 'Rocky'

But these fitness centers aren't just for fighters  
Food & Health / E1

# Herald-Journal

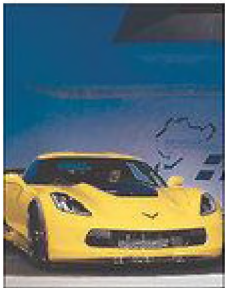
WEDNESDAY

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**HJ**  
IN A HURRY

**5** Things  
to read  
today



### Enjoy the ride

People still want to have fun when they drive. That's the message from automakers unveiling a bevy of performance cars in Detroit this week.  
**PAGE C4**

### 2 students wounded

A 12-year-old New Mexico boy drew a shotgun from a band-instrument case and shot and wounded two classmates at his middle school Tuesday morning before a teacher talked him into dropping the weapon.  
**PAGE A3**

### Leniency sought

A woman beaten with a walking stick and threatened with a machete asked for leniency on her attacker, a 46-year-old Woodruff man.  
**PAGE A4**

### Ban struck down

A federal judge struck down Oklahoma's gay marriage ban Tuesday, but headed off any rush to the altar by setting aside his order while state and local officials complete an appeal.  
**PAGE A8**

### Check it out

Converse and Wofford colleges are pooling their resources to study ways to improve library services at both campuses. The colleges have received a \$75,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to conduct the 18-month study.  
**PAGE C1**

Weather

## Statehouse rumbles to life

### Health care put on front lines

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina lawmakers returned Tuesday to the Statehouse and were greeted by dueling protests over health care.

On one side of the capitol, protesters called for the Legislature to pass a bill that would keep the state from implementing some

◆ SEE PROTESTS PAGE A4



RAINIER EHRHARDT/AP  
Rep. Bill Chumley, R-Spartanburg, speaks during a protest outside the Statehouse on the first day of the South Carolina Legislature on Tuesday in Columbia.

### Harrell pushes for state AG to make SLED report public

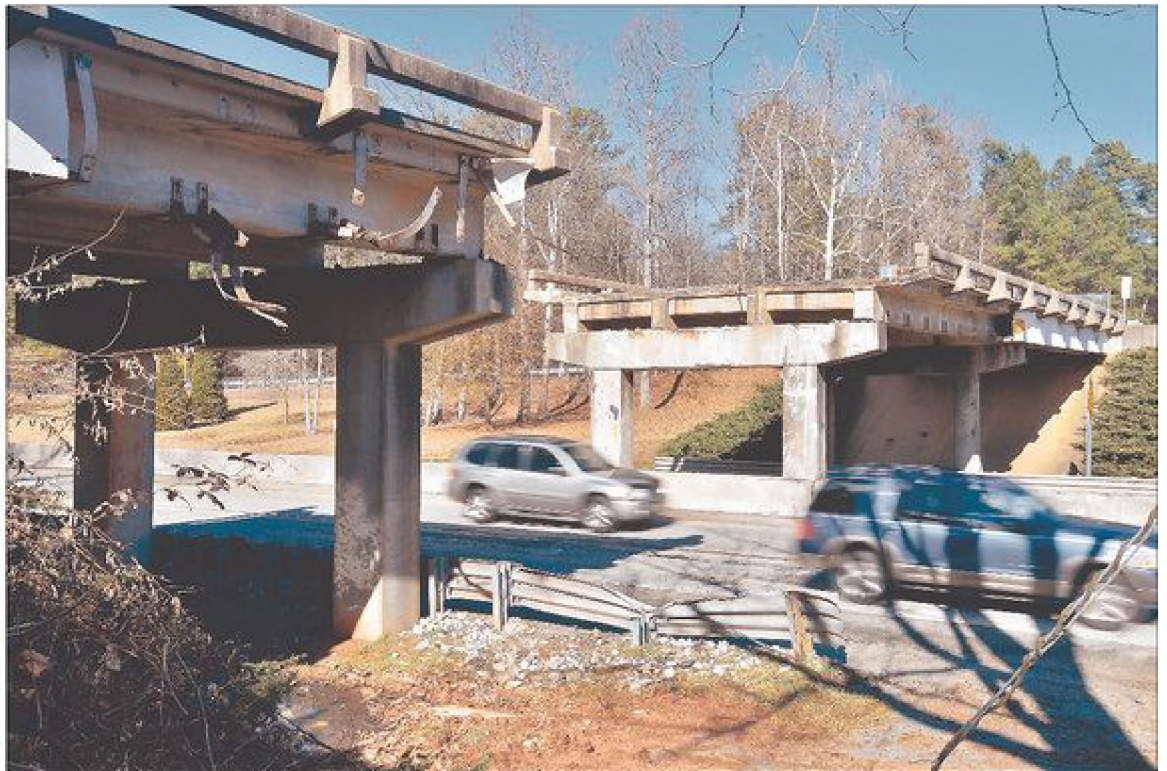
By SEANNA ADCOX  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell again Tuesday called on the attorney general to immediately release a state police review of ethics allegations against Harrell, saying he believes it will exonerate him.

Harrell repeated his request in a news conference shortly before the opening of the 2014 legislative session. He said he believes the timing of Attorney General Alan Wilson's decision to send the case to the State Grand Jury on Monday was deliberate but that

◆ SEE HARRELL PAGE A4

### TRAFFIC MOVING AGAIN



Motorists drive on Pine Street under the California Avenue bridge on Tuesday. The inbound and outbound lanes of Pine Street, also known as I-585, reopened early Tuesday after a crash destroyed the California Avenue bridge on Monday.

## Pine Street reopens after bridge incident

Crews worked overnight to remove span

From staff reports

underside of the overpass Monday

off Pine Street in time for rush-hour traffic.

The most damaged span shifted five feet by the impact of the col-

SCDOT employees involved in the emergency effort to restore connectivity for the motoring public as quickly as possible."









Calhoun Falls  
vs. McCormick  
basketball, **1B**

2013 holiday sales, **6B**

2 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

DAILY 75¢, SUNDAY \$1.50

# Proposed budget to slash de la Howe funding

By KATE HRUBY  
khruby@indexjournal.com

Major funding cuts and authoritative changes are in store for the John de la Howe School if Gov. Nikki Haley's proposed executive budget for fiscal year 2014-15 passes.

John de la Howe is an alternative school in McCormick County for wayward youth in grades six through 10. The school management is currently under review by the state Office of the Inspector General.

According to the OIG, a report on the review will be ready in the next seven to 10 days.

Haley's proposed budget would slash funds for the school by almost a third and would introduce the Department of Juvenile Justice as an overseer to board operations and decisions.



NIKKI  
HALEY

The proposed budget recommends: "the elimination of the school's support through the EIA (Educational Improvement Act) and a one-third reduction in general fund assistance" for John de la Howe.

According to the proposal, this is because the per-student costs at John de la Howe far surpass those at similar institutions with similar conditions. The school has one of the highest costs per student rates considering its poor performance. For 2011 and 2013, the school received a

"School at Risk" rating on its Annual Report Card and an "N/R" or "no rating" for 2012 because the school failed to complete the reporting requirements.

The proposed budget states: "John de la Howe's annual costs per student are far beyond the rates charged by Level II facilities (peers), wilderness camps, or even by league universities."

The budget also recommends Proviso 7.2, which allows the school to lease residences to employees with

very little restrictions be amended and requires the school report to an external agency.

According to the budget, this amendment would "impose reporting requirements and require that rates be market based."

Additionally, the budget proposes Proviso 7.4, which requires that the school be at full capacity, be deleted, implicating the school's uncertain future. The school was

See **FUNDING**, page 4A



ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, walks away Tuesday following a news conference on the first day of the South Carolina Legislature in Columbia.

■ STATEHOUSE

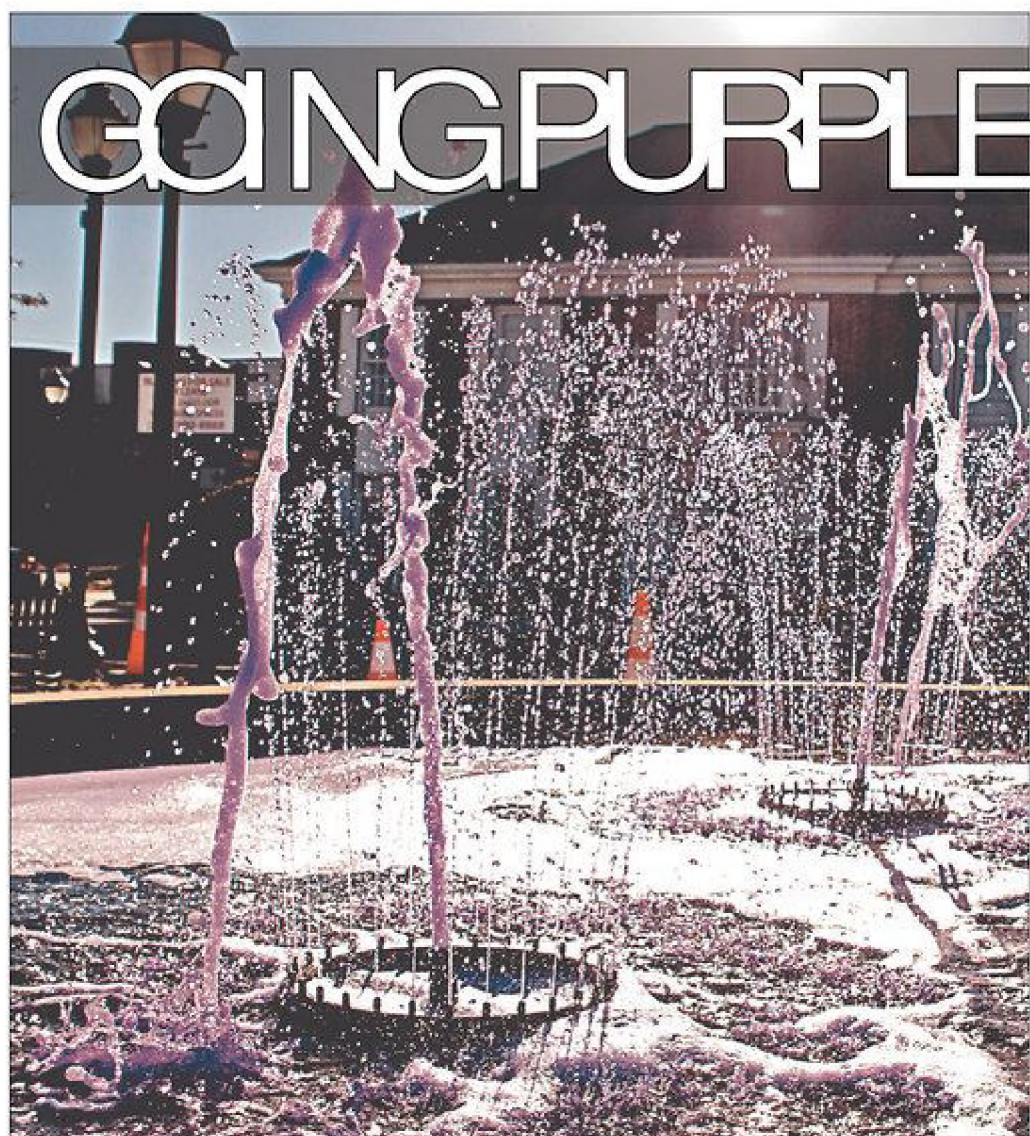
## Speaker: Release report

Harrell requests review of ethics allegations be made public

By SEANNA ADCOX  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina House Speaker Bobby Harrell again Tuesday called on the attorney general to immediately release a state police review of ethics allegations against Harrell, saying he thinks it will exonerate him.

Harrell repeated his request in a news conference shortly before the opening of the 2014 legislative session. He said he thinks the timing of Attorney General Alan Wilson's deci-



MADDY JONES / INDEX JOURNAL

The fountain in Uptown Greenwood was dyed purple in honor of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. According to Greenwood assistant to the city manager Julie Wilkie, it will remain purple until at least early February. Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month actually was in November, but the city's Christmas tree covered the fountain through most of November and December, so the fountain was not turned purple until January. According to research, 45,320 Americans (23,740 men and 21,580 women) were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2012.







# THE ISLAND PACKET

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

islandpacket.com

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Finally, today should be free of rain. 6B

**A two-car wreck on US 278 in Bluffton kills Hilton Head Island man, 84 3A**

**\$25 for \$50 toward a fresh flower arrangement or live plant**  
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## IN CONGRESS

# Flood insurance hike delayed

More comprehensive legislation could reach Senate floor within days

By GREG GORDON

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — An uproar from affected property owners was enough to unite oft-polarized members of Congress into delaying some steep hikes in federal flood insurance premiums until October, perhaps presaging a bigger rollback of the financially ailing program's 2012 overhaul.



## MORE INSIDE

Congress' new budget bill sets spending through Sept. 30. What is South Carolina slated to spend money on? 5A

The issue got so hot that it made legislative co-authors out of Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana and Republican House counterpart Bill Cassidy, who hopes to unseat her next fall.

The deal, affecting only a slice of the \$5 million federal flood insurance policyholders, is buried in the omnibus budget agreement made public Tuesday.

Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss.,

vice chairman of a Home Protection Caucus that formed last May in an effort to galvanize opposition, called it a "first step as we work toward broader reforms."

More comprehensive legislation providing for a four-year delay in the premium hikes could reach the Senate floor within days.

Please see FLOOD on 9A

## AT FRIPP ISLAND GOLF COURSE

# Victim of punch awarded \$500,000

Beaufort resident suffered injuries and still faces medical treatment after Conway man mistook him for someone else.

By MATT McNAB

m.mcnaab@beaufortgazette.com  
843-706-8125

A Beaufort man assaulted on a Fripp Island golf course in 2011 was awarded \$500,000 last week in a civil trial against the man who attacked him, according to Beaufort County court records.

A jury awarded Beaufort resident Rodney J. Allgire \$400,000 in actual damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages Jan. 8 after a civil trial in Beaufort County stemming from a Nov. 13, 2011, assault.

Conway resident Marshall G. Blanton, 44, punched Allgire twice in the face while on the stairs of the Fripp Island Ocean Creek Golf Course's pro shop after an argument between the playing groups to which the men belonged, according to a Beaufort County Sheriff's Office report.

The two groups had been arguing on the course and in the pro shop before Blanton punched Allgire, whom he mistakenly believed was the one arguing with Blanton's group, the report said.

Please see PUNCH on 9A



# HARRELL ON ATTACK

Speaker's ethics case heads for grand jury

By JAMIE SELF • The (Columbia) State

House Speaker Bobby Harrell said Tuesday that legislative business will go on as usual, after the Charleston Republican — arguably the most powerful man in state government — railed against news that ethics allegations against him will be heard by a state grand jury.

S.C. Attorney General Alan Wilson released that news Monday — the day before the legislative session began — in a move that Harrell told reporters Tuesday was "intended to inflict political damage" on him and amounted to a "smear campaign."

Asked what motive fellow Republican Wilson would have to "inflict political damage" on him, Harrell referred reporters to Wilson's office.

"This is an ongoing criminal investigation before the state grand jury," Wilson's spokesman, Mark Powell, responded. "It is inappropriate for us to comment."

In the House, Harrell conducted business as usual, as legislators milled about greeting one another.

House members reported no legislative efforts to take action against Harrell. Republicans, who control the House, declined to comment on the record or were supportive of Harrell.

Please see HARRELL on 9A

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A look at how the statewide grand jury operates:

- State grand jury proceedings are held in secret.
- The S.C. attorney general acts as legal counsel to the grand jury. The grand jury has broader subpoena powers than law enforcement, allowing it to compel sworn testimony and the production of documents not always brought to light by law enforcement.
- Twelve of 18 members of the grand jury would have to vote to bring an indictment.

## IN BLUFFTON

# Council tables noise ordinance

The panel members plan on visiting Old Town businesses where music is played and residents who have complained.

By DAN BURLEY

dburley@islandpacket.com  
843-706-8142

Bluffton Town Council thinks hearing is believing.

The panel tabled a revised noise ordinance at its meeting Tuesday night that would limit how loud and how long outdoor music can be played in all of Bluffton.

Instead, council will visit the Old Town businesses where outdoor music is played and the homes of residents who have complained about what they call excessive noise on Calhoun

## IN BLUFFTON

# Hilton Head Hospital's outpatient center now open

By DAN BURLEY

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843-706-8142

Nearly a year after construction began, Hilton Head Hospital's new Bluffton outpatient center off U.S. 278 officially opened Tuesday.

ter, cardiac services, primary care physicians, and adult and pediatric physical, speech and occupational therapies. It boasts diagnostic imaging services that include breast imaging, CT scans, nuclear medicine, ultrasounds and radiography.







**WALKING FREE:** Sumter man found not guilty of kidnapping. A2

# The Item

VOL. 119, NO. 77 WWW.THEITEM.COM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014 | SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOUNDED OCTOBER 15, 1894 60 CENTS



## BIRNIE HOPE HOOPS

St. Francis Xavier tangles with Clarendon Hall  
**B1**

# Baker will earn \$182K annually

BY RAYTEVIA EVANS  
evans@theitem.com



BAKER

Dr. Frank Baker will receive at least \$182,070 a year for the next three school years, as details of the Sumter School District superintendent's finalized contract were released on Tuesday.

According to the contract, Baker has agreed to serve until June 30, 2016, and will be paid at least nearly \$10,000 more than his predecessor, former superintendent Randolph Bynum.

The contract also states the board and Baker "may mutually agree to adjust the salary of the su-

perintendent during the term of this contract, based on satisfactory performance, but in no event shall the superintendent be paid less than \$182,070."

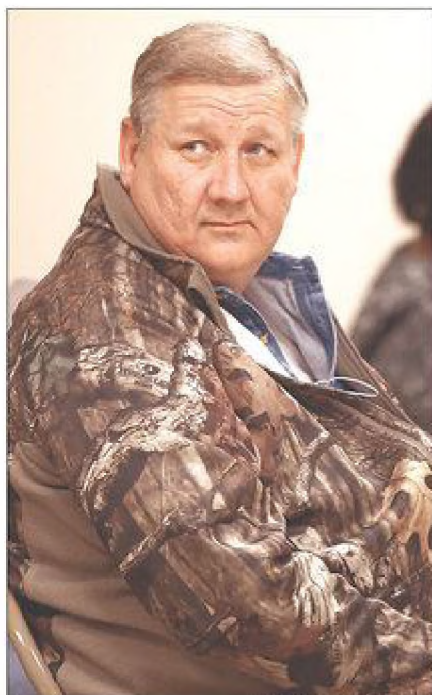
Baker also has the option of contributing any part of his salary to an annuity plan of his choice, and the contract has other added benefits,

such as a monthly automobile allowance of no less than \$1,000.

The contract was discussed in executive session during the board's meeting on Monday, according to the Rev. Daryl McGhaney, who made the motion to

SEE **CONTRACT**, PAGE A8

# Pinewood election set



Both seen Tuesday at Pinewood's town council meeting. Pinewood Mayor Pro Tem Sarah Mathis, left, will face off against Manley Dubose in Pinewood's special election in March for the seat vacated by former Mayor Al Pridgen. Filing closed Monday.

## 2 candidates file for mayoral seat

BY TYLER SIMPSON  
tyler@theitem.com

Two candidates have offered up their names to fill Pinewood's empty mayoral seat during the special election in March.

With filing closing

nation was made official after council received an updated resignation letter with an effective date of Dec. 16.

Dubose said he was running because of dissatisfaction with how the current council is

been running Pinewood, most recently when council didn't immediately inform its citizens about receiving a resignation letter from Pridgen in early December 2013.

"I don't think it was right, and it

## Town without insurance for public workers

BY TYLER SIMPSON  
tyler@theitem.com

The town of Pinewood is no longer able to offer its employees health insurance benefits after falling more than \$13,000 behind in insurance payments to the state agency providing coverage.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Erika Harlan walks away with some gifts at the October Operation Military Shower, founded to help moms whose spouses were deployed or on temporary duty assignment, but it has grown to include those with financial concerns.

## Showers help to support local military moms

BY JADE REYNOLDS  
jade@theitem.com

Having a baby is an expensive proposition.

Now imagine having twins.

Take it a step further. Imagine having twins while your spouse is halfway around the world and knowing that, come April, you or he may no longer be employed.

"I have 22 moms and two are expecting twins," said Melissa Revel, founder of Operation Military Shower. "I've had some who are dual military, and some where Mom is active duty. It's eye opening to see so many different situations."

"The troop draw-down, the way it is affecting Shaw (Air Force Base) and how it affects my program, is

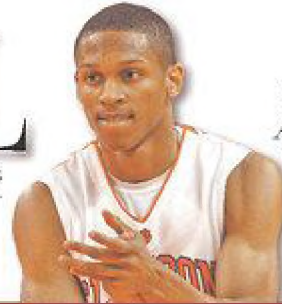
### YOU CAN HELP OUT

Go online for more information or to donate to the cause.

www.operation-militaryshower.com







**ROAD SHOW**  
After big win over Duke, Roper, Tigers travel to Virginia Tech tonight. **C1**

**HEALTH:** Tips to support a healthy lifestyle. **B1**

**WORLD | NATION:** New Mexico boy, 12, shoots two classmates. **D1**

## Sales tax requests near \$31 million

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

**WALHALLA** — Seven projects looking to get funded through a proposed 1 percent sales tax increase in Oconee County have a combined price tag of almost \$31 million. Any individual or group

wishing to recommend a project must turn in the required paperwork to the Oconee County Capital Sales Tax Commission by today's 5 p.m. deadline.

The costliest proposal to date is one for more than \$15.5 million turned in by the Oconee County Public Library to build three new branches



and renovate two others. The least expensive requests are for \$250,000 each from the City of Walhalla — to upgrade its water

plant — and from an individual requesting surfacing and other work on Wild Fern Road.

Walhalla's plant renovation is

estimated to cost \$500,000, but the city already has \$250,000 in hand and is asking for the remaining half to complete the project.

Other requests are:  
• \$11 million for a recreational and aquatic center to be owned

SEE SALES TAX, PAGE A4

## ON THE HUNT



JESSICA NEUMS / THE JOURNAL

**S**gt. Tommy Crompton and his dog, Ayder, of the Oconee County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit helped Seneca Police officers and sheriff's deputies Tuesday with a search for a man who allegedly kicked in the door of a home in Seneca. Seneca Police Chief John Covington said officials had identified the man and were getting warrants Tuesday. Covington said the man was also being sought by two other agencies for other crimes. The suspect was located Tuesday afternoon and was being detained pending medical treatment.

## No challengers yet for Seneca incumbents

Filing deadline is Friday

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE  
THE JOURNAL

**WALHALLA** — The filing deadline to run for a Seneca City Council seat is two days away, but as of yet no challenger has yet filed to test the waters against the incumbents.

SEE SENeca, PAGE A4

FOR MORE

To read an editorial "call to action," turn to page **A3**.

To read about the actions Seneca Council members took at their meeting Tuesday, turn to page **A2**.

## Cotton receives contract extension

Clemson administrator opts for no salary increase with 4-year deal



Cotton

BY GREG OLIVER  
THE JOURNAL

**CLEMSON** — Clemson City Administrator Rick Cotton has been on the job 18 years this month, and City Council members recently expressed their gratitude by

SEE COTTON, PAGE A4

## Pickens County school officials discuss facilities needs

BY GREG OLIVER  
THE JOURNAL

**EASLEY** — Pickens County school officials unveiled their top-20 list of facilities needs during a special called work session of the School Board of Trustees Monday night.

However, it wasn't long into the meeting before

this summer," said Danny Barrett, director of operations for the district.

He estimated it will cost \$110,000 to replace the carpet at Six Mile Elementary, while the district is checking on price estimates for the Pickens Middle project.

Barrett's list of immediate needs for 2014,

Forest Acres Elementary, reroofing the old section of the new Pickens Middle, reroofing two wings at Liberty Middle and reroofing the shingle roofs at East End Elementary, Northside Center and the district's operations office complex.

Board Chairman Ben Trotter said the carpet



Although recent construction efforts have given many of the district's schools new and improved facilities, such as the new Daniel High School at left, School District of Pickens







**PREP BASKETBALL** South Florence, Sumter tangle in 6-4A hoops opener. **Page 1D**

# Morning News

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15, 2014

The Voice of the Pee Dee

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Partly sunny, stray shower late and cold, high 64, low 28

DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

75 cents

## Education high priority for lawmakers

Supporting teachers, schools with more funding among ideas

BY GAVIN JACKSON

Morning News  
gjackson@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Education will be in the spotlight this session, even if it's because Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and Democratic challenger state Sen. Vincent Sheheen have made it top priority for their year, with both unveiling plans to advance public education.

Haley's plan, announced last week, will focus on more technology and reading programs in the classroom totaling \$60 million and directing \$97 million toward children living in the poorest areas of the state by changing the state's funding formula.

Sheheen also announced plans to expand the 4-year-old pre-kindergarten to all S.C. counties and match teacher pay with the

national average.

According to the S.C. Department of Education, the average teacher salary is \$48,375 compared with national average \$55,418.

Local lawmakers agree that education will be an important focus this year and shared their thoughts with the Morning News.

» Rep. Terry Alexander, D-Flo-

rence District 59, Darlington and Florence counties



Alexander

"I'm happy to see legislation drafted up now to get rid of the grading system because it does harm kids, families and communities, and No. 2, it does

damage to economic develop-

### INSIDE

» SC Democratic Party gears up for November elections. **3A**

» State legislators return for new session; protesters descend on Columbia. **6A**

ment with businesses not coming to a community with 'F's, 'D's and 'C's. So I'm interested to see what we need to do change that

See **LAWMAKERS**, Page 6A



JOHN D. RUSSELL/MORNING NEWS

Jim Steele (left) and Andy Phillips, with Branson Machinery of Rome, Ga., back a sub-compact tractor into place on Tuesday as vendors set up for the S.C. AgriBiz and Farm Expo at the Florence Civic Center. The agricultural show kicks off Thursday and is expected to attract thousands from around the Southeast.

## Two days on the farm

SC AgriBiz expo kicks off Thursday

BY JOHN D. RUSSELL

Morning News  
jrussell@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — It's not really harvest time of the year, but tractors and other farm equipment were starting to show up in droves Tuesday in preparation for the second annual S.C. AgriBiz & Farm Expo. The show starts Thursday morning at

the Florence Civic Center, but vendors are getting set up to welcome the throngs of farmers and agriculturally interested folks stopping by.

Expo Chairman Jody Martin said he is hoping to attract 10,000 attendees, four times the amount as last year. Starting Thursday morning for two

See **FARM**, Page 4A

### EXPO SCHEDULE

» **Trade show:** General admission — \$5 (at the door); No registration required; Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
» **Educational sessions:** Thursday 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Friday 10:30 a.m.  
» **Small Farmer & Food Entrepreneur Workshop:** \$40; registration required; Thursday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
» **Taste of South Carolina:** Invited or \$25; registration required; Thursday 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
» **Commissioner's Breakfast:** \$25 donation; registration required; Friday

8-9 a.m.

» **AgriTourism workshop:** \$40; registration required Friday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.  
» **Farm Bureau Day:** Friday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
» **Women's sessions:** Friday 10:30 a.m.-noon.  
» **AgriBiz Expo Alumni Reception** (for Clemson alumni only): Wednesday 6 p.m.

To register for any S.C. AgriBiz & Farm Expo activities, visit the event website at <http://scagnibiz.com/expo/> or call show manager Jody Martin at 843-250-7900.

## Florentines remember their good ol' 'Boots'

Former clerk of court a staple in Claussen for many years

BY TRACI BRIDGES

Morning News  
tbridges@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — If Florence County's Claussen community had a mayor, it would have been James C. "Boots" Gregg.

The 88-year-old Gregg, a former Florence County clerk of court, died at a local hospital Thursday morning, and those who live in Claussen said the community just won't be the same without him.

"Everybody knew Boots and looked up to him," Florence County Deputy Coroner and fellow Claussen resident Don Reynolds said. "He loved everybody and you could talk to him about anything — family matters, church, your garden. He had an outstanding garden that he was always working in. And he was quick to share his fruits and vegetables with his neighbors and friends and anybody else who might want some. He'd help you in any way he could. He was a big part of our community."

Gregg was born and raised in Claussen. He and his wife, Carolyn, known to most as "Mrs. Sissy," made their home in Claussen and raised their children there. And their children raised their children there. And those children are now raising Gregg's great-grandchildren in the same community. The name "Gregg" is virtually synonymous with Claussen.



Gregg

See **GREGG**, Page 6A

## MLK events decorate weekend schedule in Pee Dee

From staff reports

Several organizations and groups will be holding events beginning Thursday and running through Monday honoring the life and memory of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

### GOT AN EVENT?

Have a MLK event coming up? Send an email with the

16TH ANNUAL MLK

office at 843-661-1182

### MLK CELEBRATION WEEKEND IN DARLINGTON:

Saturday through Monday throughout Darlington. Saturday, tours of African-American historic sites in the Darlington area will be offered. Included in the tour are the St. James United Methodist Church Historic Site, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, the Edmund Deas House historic marker, the Henry "Dad" Brown historical marker and monument, the Buddy Johnson historic marker, the Museum of Ethnic Culture, the Lawrence Reese historic marker



Jarad James of Florence carries a portrait of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.







Odd



**From rookies  
to reliable**  
Carolina expects LB  
corps to lead in 2014  
**SPORTS, B1**

## CHINESE NEW YEAR



A new take  
on Chinese  
dishes

**TASTE, C1**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2014

## The Times and Democrat

75 CENTS • ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA | [TheTandD.com](http://TheTandD.com) | 8 SECTIONS, 44 PAGES • VOL. 133 • NO. 15

## Baby taken, found OK along road

Kidnapping of 4-month-old results from incident in Holly Hill; two vehicles being sought

*T&D Staff Report*

A baby kidnapped from an Orangeburg County home Tuesday afternoon was later found uninjured alongside a Berkeley County road.

The Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office received a call for service that a 4-month-old child had been kidnapped

from a Catamount Road residence in Holly Hill, Sheriff's Office spokesperson Keisa Gundy said.

While officers were responding to initiate an Amber Alert for the child, the Communications Center was notified that the infant was in Berkeley County, she said.

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office

spokesman Dan Moon said the 4-month-old was discovered after "someone spotted a baby on the side of the road" and called it in to authorities. WCSC-TV in Charleston reported the baby was discovered in the area of Highway 176 and 311.

The baby was checked out by EMTs at the scene and was not injured. It was later reunited with its family.

Authorities were seeking two vehicles Tuesday night: A red Chevrolet Impala and a green Ford Explorer. The suspects are considered armed and dangerous.

A woman inside the home where the baby was taken told Channel 2 in Charleston that she did not want to make any statements on the incident and said, "We're afraid for our lives."



Rep. Samuel Rivers Jr., R-Goose Creek, greets U.S. Farm Service Agency state director Harry Ott, the former S.C. House District 93 representative; District 97 Rep. Patsy Knight, D-St. George, and District 93 Rep. Russell Ott, D-St. Matthews, right.

SACS  
WARNINGFirm hired  
to clarify  
S.C. State  
board's role

By GENE ZALESKI  
*T&D Staff Writer*

South Carolina State University has hired a company to clarify the lines between the board and the administration to address the concerns of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

"Every day counts in this process.... We will be working on this to make sure we prepare to report to SACS when it is due March 15," S.C. State President Thomas Elzey said during a called board meeting Tuesday.

Silver and Associates is scheduled to meet with the board Feb. 6 to provide training and insight into SACS expectations and concerns related to the university.

Last June, SACS placed S.C. State on warning in part because of the university's lack of a "clear line of demarcation between the board's governance and the administration." The warning also indicated the university failed to comply in financial resources, board conflict of interest, control of finances and control of sponsored research/external funds.

The year-long warning is the lesser of two sanctions SACS can impose, often preceding probation.

Elzey said the university will pay Silver and Associates about \$5,000 for two 2-1/2 hour sessions that will address issues such as the role of the board, university governance and SACS ex-

## Family in the House for Ott's first day

By MARTHA ROSE BROWN  
*T&D Staff Writer*

COLUMBIA — He was a senior in high school when he first ran as a member of the S.C. House of Representatives.

It was a mock election at Palmetto Boys State, a week-long summer camp during which selected high school seniors learn about the American system of government and politics, and get opportunities to run for office.

That was Russell Ott.

Read more about the General  
Assembly's first day on B4.

in the mock election.

On Tuesday, Ott was again in the S.C. House. This time it was the real deal.

Voters in District 93 chose Ott, D-St. Matthews, in an October 2013 special election to succeed his father, former House Minority Leader Harry Ott, who stepped down to become state executive direc-

term.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be here," Ott said.

He is the newest member of the House, which convened for the first day of its 2014 session.

At about 11:45 a.m., Ott was among the first of the House members to enter the House chambers.

"I'm ready to get started," he said, "I didn't get much sleep last night."

Ott said the lack of sleep was due to thinking a lot about "who all has helped me along the way."

As a few more House members entered the cham-



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